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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Rejects Iran Joining Damascus Declaration

NC2111091091 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 13

[Text] Egypt has categorically rejected a request by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to admit Iran to the Damascus Declaration. The GCC states submitted this request during the fifth meeting of the Damascus Declaration states held in Cairo last week. The GCC states held urgent contacts with Iran, during which it was agreed to admit it to the Damascus Declaration after the GCC states and Iran sign a new security and nonaggression agreement.

Egypt threatened to withdraw from the Damascus Declaration if Iran was accepted as a new member. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa rejected any cooperation between Egypt and Iran under the present conditions, threatening to dissolve this grouping because, according to him, Iran is seeking to fight the Egyptian role in the Gulf. Moreover, Iran recently rejected several attempts to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Arab People's Congress Denies Lockerbie Charges

LD2011202991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress held a meeting in Tripoli this evening attended by the Council of Delegates of the Permanent Secretariat and a number of popular, political, and trade union organizations from Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen, and Lebanon. A number of Arab academics and writers also attended. Those attending the meeting reviewed some of the U.S.-British accusations against the Great Jamahiriyah. They reaffirmed the falsehood of these accusations in connection with the destruction of a Pan American airliner over the Lockerbie area three years ago. They stressed that they stand by the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

GCC Defense Ministers Meeting Issues Statement

JN2011190291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Doha, 20 Nov (WAKH)—The defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states have decided that specialized committees will continue to study all subjects in light of the outcome of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and to learn the best lessons from that experience in order to realize the principle of collective security.

In a statement issued at the end of their 10th meeting in Doha today, the defense ministers expressed their congratulations and pleasure on liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, restoring legitimacy to it, and resuming normal life in it. They informed His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of their pride in the Kuwaiti people's steadfastness and their adherence to their soil, independence, and legitimacy.

They also commended the firm stand of the Gulf people, who linked their fate with Kuwait's freedom and independence. The ministers then reviewed the recommendations made by the GCC chiefs of staff.

League Informed of Israeli Raid on Muslim Court

NC2011222391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat today informed the permanent representatives of the secretariat in Cairo of Jordan's memorandum on the Israeli forces' storming of the canonical court in Jerusalem on 18 November and the seizure of documents and files that date back 800 years.

Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nabih al-Nimr, who is also Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League, submitted his country's memorandum to the Arab League on the Israeli incident. He asked that the memorandum be distributed to the permanent representatives to inform the Arab governments of this incident and to take the appropriate stands.

League Working Team Ends Food Security Meetings

NC2011222191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1601 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—The Arab working team on Arab food security ended its meeting today at the headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat in Cairo under the chairmanship of Yusuf Ni'matallah, Arab League assistant secretary general for economic affairs.

Dr. Ni'matallah said the working team made a number of recommendations on implementing joint Arab projects in the fields of food security, animal resources development, and providing financing for these projects.

The assistant secretary general said these recommendations will be presented to the Social and Economic Council during the 50th session in February.

The food security team consists of a number of Arab organizations and institutions, including the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Arab Investment Company, the Arab Company for Fisheries, and the General Union for the Trade, Industry, and Agricultural Chambers of Arab Countries.

The meetings started yesterday.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Delegation To Visit Moscow 22 Nov

Emigration Issue To Be Stressed

JN2111063991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A Palestinian delegation will visit Moscow Friday for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other senior Soviet leaders on the Middle East peace process and Soviet Jewish emigration, Palestinian leaders said Wednesday.

Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian team to the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid on Oct. 30, and Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, who headed the actual delegates, are expected to impress upon the Soviet government the dangers posed to the Palestinian cause by an Israeli-only condition attached to Soviet Jewish emigration.

"We will raise the principle of the Helsinki agreement and urge the Soviet Union to abide by it," said one Palestinian official noting that Moscow, as one of the signatories to the Helsinki accords on human rights, is obliged to offer emigrants the freedom to choose their destination.

Under the present system in place, Soviet Jews are given exit permits only for Israel as their destination although, in principle, they carry passports which could help them to return to the Soviet Union if they desired so at a later stage.

Notwithstanding the passports, the Israeli-only condition effectively forces all Soviet Jewish emigrants to head for Israel regardless of their preference for other destinations.

Until 1989, when the Soviet Union, under the presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev, relaxed exit procedures and Israel stepped up its efforts to net as many Soviet Jewish emigrants as possible, less than 10 per cent of all Soviet Jewish emigrants opted to go to Israel, according to senior Soviet officials.

The visit of the Palestinian delegation to Moscow was arranged previously with Boris Pankin, who was replaced as foreign minister by Mr. Shevardnadze on Tuesday. The change prompted a two-day delay in the delegation's visit, Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times.

Another issue expected to be discussed by the delegation is the issue of multilateral talks on the Middle East. It was earlier expected Moscow would host the talks, which would bring together all the Arab parties directly involved in the peace process as well as the European Community, the Gulf Arab states, and Arab Maghreb states, Japan, Canada and several other countries in addition to the U.S., which spearheaded the efforts which led to the Madrid conference.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union co-sponsored the Madrid conference and it is expected that the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks will be held in an American city, most probably Williamsburg, Virginia.

(One informed source said Wednesday that the U.S. appeared to be also entertaining plans for Rhodes, Greece, as a possible venue for the bilateral talks. No definite confirmation was immediately available).

The Palestinians are believed to be closer to the Syrian position that the multilateral talks, which would focus on regional water resources, environment and disarmament, would be futile unless Israel starts withdrawing from the occupied territories.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation is also due to head for Moscow on Friday for talks with Mr. Shevardnadze.

Nabil Sha'th, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said one of the key Palestinian objectives was to ensure that Moscow makes Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel contingent on an Israeli assurance that none of the emigres would be settled in the occupied Arab territories.

A halt to Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied territories is one of the key demands of Palestinians ahead of the next round of talks with the Jewish state.

Mr. Sha'th also said the Palestinians felt more comfortable dealing with Mr. Shevardnadze than Mr. Pankin, who was relatively new to the issues of the Middle East while his successor has had previous experience in tackling the complexities of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Delegates To Meet Shevardnadze

NC2011222591 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] On the eve of the departure to Moscow of the Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi and comprising Faysal al-Husayni, Sami al-Kilani, and Samir 'Abdallah, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh spoke about the visit to Sa'd al-Silawi, our correspondent in Amman:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] Regarding the meetings in Moscow, we naturally will meet with the Soviet leadership and new Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, with whom we have previous relations. During this meeting, we will discuss paving the way for bilateral negotiations, halting [israeli] settlements as an inevitable step for the progress of the bilateral negotiations, and the application of the Fourth Geneva convention. The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution in this regard committing Israel to respect international

law in dealing with the Palestinian people under occupation. We will also discuss the concept of the transitional period and how it would be possible for this transitional period to lead to the final solution represented by Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-determination. [end recording]

Abu-Mazin To Visit Moscow

JN21:1085291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Nov 91 pp 1, 16

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Prior to his departure from Amman to Damascus to meet with Syrian Minister Faruq al-Shar', Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has declared that a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas—also known as Abu-Mazin—is due to visit Moscow. Accompanying the delegation on this visit on Friday will be four participants in the negotiating Palestinian delegation: Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Council to the negotiating Palestinian delegation; and delegation members Sami al-Kilani and Samir 'Abdallah.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said that the visit to the Soviet Union is because it is one of the cosponsors of the Madrid conference and the subsequent negotiations.

The Soviet Union had proposed Moscow as the venue for the multilateral conference. In this regard, we see that comprehensive Palestinian participation must be through the PLO, and this cannot be compared with the formula of representation in Madrid. This conference will discuss issues related to all the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories.

He added that in Moscow we will meet with the Soviet leadership and with the new Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, with whom we have previous relations. During this meeting, we will discuss paving the way for the bilateral talks, halting Israeli settlement as an indispensable step for the progress of the bilateral negotiations, and implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention; that is, forcing Israel to respect international law in dealing with the Palestinian people under occupation, in addition to discussing the meaning of the transitional stage and how it can lead to the final solution; namely, withdrawal and self-determination.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that in the PLO's viewpoint, the transitional stage must clearly include sovereignty over the land, water, and other natural resources. We can never accept a transitional stage that includes a formal civil administration which does not have full sovereignty over the land.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that after the PLO meetings of the past days, which studied the plans for the negotiations, and after consultations with our brothers inside the occupied territories, we are now holding talks and consultations with the Arab brothers. We held talks in Amman, and today I will meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to discuss the Arab coordination plan in the upcoming negotiations. Within the context of these negotiations, the PLO sees that a complete and comprehensive halt to settlement in the Palestinian occupied territories and the Golan must be the first step, prior to discussing other issues on the agenda of the negotiations, in order for the political process to really begin on the basis of land for peace, and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We will also discuss other issues including the Arab position on the multilateral conference. The PLO's position on this issue is that this conference must be held after progress is made in the bilateral negotiations on resolving issues related to halting settlement and to the transitional stage, including Palestinian sovereignty over the land during the transitional stage in order to reach a final solution; that is full withdrawal and self- determination for the Palestinian people. After we make progress on this road and the political process becomes real and certain, it is possible to begin preparing for the multilateral conference. Within this context, since the conference is an international one that will discuss the region's issues and future, it is necessary to involve the PLO in a full, official, and direct manner to discuss issues related to the Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland, as well as the future relations of the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine with the rest of the countries and parties in the region.

'Arafat, Soviet Envoy Discuss Peace Process

LD2111071891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The brother president, Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], this morning received His Excellency the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia. The discussion during this meeting dealt with developments of the peace process in the Middle East, the finding of a just solution to the Palestinian problem, and the forthcoming negotiations from all their aspects. The discussion also dealt with bilateral, regional, and international issues.

'Urayqat—Diplomacy, Intifadah Go 'Hand in Hand'

JN2111070091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—The pre-negotiating position of the Palestinian delegation is being strengthened by moves to forge a united political front based on pluralism in the occupied territories, according to one of the Palestinians negotiators.

The political infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza is so strong that the people were able to draw a linkage between the negotiators' aim of liberating the occupied territories and working towards an independent state with the intifada's aim at liberation and independence, said political science professor Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. "They realized that the two go hand in hand," he said.

"There are charters of honor being drawn up with opposition parties to give democracy its real essence," Dr. Urayqat explained. "We don't want to use democracy whenever it suits our purpose, we are trying to forge a democracy based on freedom and tolerance."

The charters of honour are not assurances to the opposition parties but are guarantees that pluralism will be protected by the negotiators and opposition parties alike. "We want to maintain a comprehensive internal front. We want to preserve the no and the yes and find models of expressions. We want to strengthen the intifada. We want to strengthen the institutions that we developed and we want to make sure that our internal front is united and closer than ever before because that is what counts in the end," Dr. 'Urayqat said.

The 14 Palestinian delegates to peace talks with Israel and their seven-member guidance committee are being held accountable by all Palestinians around the world, thus weakening some criticism over the delegation's composition from Palestinians in the diaspora.

"The criticism stemmed from the fact that all delegates are residents of the occupied territories. Dr. 'Urayqat said that Palestinians across the world are turning to the delegation with demands that make the delegates directly accountable even to the Palestinians outside the territories.

"The Palestinians in Amman, the U.S., Canada, Asia and Europe all are telling us that we are accountable to them. So the issue of us just representing people in the occupied territories is actually not true because all Palestinians everywhere are holding us accountable. We are the Palestinian delegation, not just the 'West Bank and Gaza delegation,'" Dr. 'Urayqat said.

The Israeli press has spread rumors that there will be several changes in the Palestinian delegation, but Dr. 'Urayqat said nothing had been decided yet. "Changes in the Palestinian delegation may occur but that is still open. It may be enlarged. There maybe new experts. There maybe people who will not want to continue... it's still an open question."

Even if changes occur the delegation political makeup is likely to remain representative of spectrum of political affiliations, Palestinian delegates here said.

The people in the West Bank and Gaza were briefed extensively by the delegates on their return to the territories, according to Dr. 'Urayqat," they said: "If you stick to our goals, independence, freedom, liberty and national honour, we are with you. If you change we will turn against you," he said.

Opponents of the peace talks such as members of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine shared a podium with members of the Palestinian delegation to Madrid at more than 30 public meetings that took place in the occupied territories.

During public "hearings," and debates on the pros and cons of the negotiating process were held, said Dr. 'Urayqat, who participated in 11 of the 30 meetings. While most parties opposed to the talks participated in these "hearings," Hamas, the main Islamic opposition party, also raised questions to the delegates.

Asked where he thought the negotiations would realistically lead the Palestinians, Dr. 'Urayqat, the most outspoken of the Palestinians at the Madrid conference, said the talks would lead to a transfer of authority, which will be a path to sovereignty from a Palestinian point of view. "I think what the Israelis are talking about is a transfer of authority to individuals. What we want is sovereignty and there is nothing in between."

Dr. 'Urayqat said he did not expect that there would be a drastic change in Israeli attitude.

"Israel has been rejecting the new shape of the world. They have a mental rejection as far as the changing role of Israel as a strategic ally of the West in the region. It will take them time but they will realise at the end that they have to live side by side to a Palestinian state." Dr. 'Urayqat said.

Dr. 'Urayqat said the Israeli society is "still a society which has a mechanism of integration of fear. In the end they will in all likelihood 'follow the leader' and revert to the herd theory when it comes to national decisions pertaining to peace."

Dr. 'Urayqat said he did not yet see a movement that counters the "revisionist Zionism" that is the basis of Israeli politics vis-a-vis the Arabs and Palestinians. "It is probably easier for the Israelis to react to war than to peace. It is a spartan society. I don't see any genuine movement in that society in terms of telling Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, wake up."

But Israelis, as all other people in the world must accept the "real politik" which is defining the new world order, Dr. 'Urayqat said. "Our definitions and positions cannot be defined by what we want and what we don't want," he said.

The symbolic offering by Palestinian youths in the occupied territories of olive branches to Israeli occupation soldiers "caught the Israelis off balance. They did not know how to react."

"At the end they started shooting people with olive branches. And now there is an order to burn olive branches," Dr. 'Urayqat said.

The recent debate within the opposition Labour Party in Israel to push to revoke the Israeli law which bans anyone living under Israeli authority from talking to members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was not seen by Dr. 'Urayqat as very significant.

"You have to keep in mind that the law is stupid, and there are some circles in the Labour Party who are admitting that it is stupid and wrong," he said.

Although the move may have partly be [as published] influencing internal Israeli affairs, Dr. 'Urayqat said, most of the changes taking place within the Israeli political circles had more to do with internal calculations than external ones.

As Israeli elections approach in 1992 the government is still using settlements and Soviet Jewish immigration to make a fait accomplit to create facts on the ground, he said.

"The Helsinki accords speak of the right of people to move and give people the right to choose. The Soviet Jews have been denied the right to choose. Between 1980 and 1989, over 92 per cent of the Soviet Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union choose not to come to Israel," Dr. 'Urayqat said.

But the international community has actually come to Mr. Shamir's aid to help realise his dream of creating his "greater Israel" by closing its doors to Soviet Jewry. "Why did the U.S., Canada, the Europeans decided to close their doors and thus the Soviet Jews were 'forced' to go to Israel." Dr. 'Urayqat asked.

The Soviet-Jewish issue is being used by Mr. Shamir to blackmail countries for more money on humanitarian grounds and to strengthen settlement policy, he said. At the end "there will be settlement and immigration and if they do not have money there will be neither," Dr. 'Urayqat argued.

"Those who argue that a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict must be based on land for peace and at the same time give Shamir money and people I think they are contradicting their own basis, they are destroying their own arguments," he concluded.

'Arafat Reprimands 'Ashrawi on Press Statements

JN2111091091 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] 'Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a telephone conversation with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi inside the occupied territories last week. He reprimanded her for her press statements and asked her, in a rather angry and sharp manner which disgusted Dr. 'Ashrawi, not to make any more press statements. She therefore declined to join the Palestinian delegation on its current visit to Amman. She was unhappy with 'Abu-'Ammar's behavior, which reflects his fear of 'Ashrawi's prominence and of her stealing the limelight from him, especially since she distinguished herself in the Palestinian delegation, and became well known for her intelligence and skill, which aroused the admiration of many people.

Editorial: Shamir Seen As Increasingly Intransigent

TA1911185091 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 17 Nov 91 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Shamir's Government and Its Attempts To Subvert the Peace"]

[Text] At a time when efforts are continuing to determine the date and venue of the second round of the bilateral negotiations on the long road to peace, the Israeli Government moved toward a point opposite this entire process by declaring its intention to prosecute Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the official spokesperson of our negotiating delegation. Although, on his part, U.S. President George Bush has expressed his concern over this matter, this American expression will remain mere "words" as long as it is not translated into practical action and effective pressure on the Israeli Government to immediately stop its extremely negative practices, which may undermine the peace process in this delicate stage.

In fact, since the Madrid conference Yitzhaq Shamir's government has escalated its practices and measures, as had been its policy in the first place. Jewish settlement in our occupied land, which occupies top priority in the negotiations and is the first thing that should be stopped, has intensified and accelerated. Although the U.S. Administration is reiterating its commitment to the land for peace principle as a firm basis of the entire peace process, the Israeli Government continues to pay no heed to this position, and its prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, continues to make daily statements on the eve of his visit to the United States that there is no room "for making concessions on territory." He does not suffice with this but goes further by pointing to Jordan as if it is a land that he has "relinquished." Moreover, in his interview with HA'ARETZ newspaper, he said: Why don't the Arabs accept this old concession of 1922?

President Bush, who is to meet with Shamir in the next few days, is called upon to put serious pressure on him in accordance with the commitment on which the Madrid peace conference was convened. Otherwise, the responsibility for subverting this peace will not only fall on Shamir's government but also, and particularly, on the U.S. Administration in this era, of which it is the unchallenged leader.

Jordanian Delegate Departs East Jerusalem for Amman

TA2011201491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Anwar al-Khatib, one the heads of the East Jerusalem Awqaf, today left for talks in Amman. Al-Khatib, who resides in East Jerusalem, is a member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks.

PFLP's Jibril on Future Program for Muslims

NC1911073891 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 4 Nov 91 p8

["Exclusive" interview with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and member of the Palestine National Council, by unidentified JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is the Muslim obligation in the new world order now that the cold war era has ended between the East and West?

[Jibril] As the world's oppresed forces we are the arrogant powers' constant targets. They will never deal straight with us but will constantly hatch plots against us.

We do not believe that the disintegration of the Communist bloc and the Soviet Union will disrupt us, forcing us to surrender. On the contrary. Communism's downfall is a dynamic factor for our struggle. We have always depended on forces which have never been sincere to us and have bartered away our lawful rights. The Soviet Union was never committed to our cause, thinking always of its own good. [passage omitted]

We believe that the Muslims who comprise one-fourth of the world's population can stand on their own feet and resist the world's arrogant forces. But they need to cooperate and be more vigilant, especially the revolutionary generations. We are confident they will play an important role in the world.

We do not believe that U.S. and arrogant forces' victory has any value; they are vulnerable and can be defeated, shown by the Islamic Revolution in Iran, which surmounted all the oppressive forces. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] We are on the brink of all hostages being released but we observe that the U.S. and Israeli sides are not displaying any goodwill. What is your opinion?

[Jibril] It is unfortunate that Western hostages are being released without the United States or Western countries paying any price reciprocally.

We believe that some Palestinians, Lebanese, and Iranians were abducted, considered hostages, and we do not see the United States or Israel acting earnestly. We hope that the sides which stand to benefit (from holding Western hostages) will not surrender to extortion and pressure.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How can settlement building in occupied territories be counteracted?

[Jibril] A military, political, and propaganda campaign is required otherwise Jewish emigration and settlement building will continue.

We also need to alert the Soviet Union's Muslim Republics to Jewish emigration there.

We should warn the Soviet Union that its relations with Muslim countries depend on its stance on Jewish emigration. We should also warn the emigrants that, from the military and security points of view, they will not be safe in the occupied territories or be able to live in safety, due to the jihad [holy war] operations in occupied Palestine.

We have taken the first step to counteract settlement building in the occupied territories and, just as you have heard in the news, Jewish emigrants are being attacked by Palestinians so that they cannot even commute from one settlement to another.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] It is said you are one of the best makers of incendiary material. How do you think you can endanger and destroy the region's U.S. military bases?

[Jibril] As combatants with a 30-year record of holy struggle, we have experience in various kinds of warfare. We should make the arrogant powers taste the bitterness of defeat, using various military, political, and propaganda weapons. Just as they have inflicted suffering on us, they should endure pain and suffering. We should make them cry since they fear death, while we welcome death fearlessly.

We should use Muslim soldiers' experiences, pooling their know-how on ways and means to militarily combat the world's arrogant powers.

We should assess the oppressed's weak points in wars, those of the oppressors, how to avoid being targets of their military strength, and adopting suitable tactics to combat them.

On the classical warfare tactics you have observed, Iraq had a classical armed force which surrendered without any combat in aerial or missile bombardment.

The Islamic ummah must envision new military strategies to combat arrogance' forces, otherwise we will sustain numerous losses.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] The PLO has bowed down to the United States and the Zionist regime. How do you view its future?

[Jibril] The PLO and its leadership do not represent the Palestinian people as rumored, and the Palestinian National Parliament, which convened its session in Algiers, has not been elected by the Palestinian people. It was appointed by 'Arafat, that is 'Arafat met groups oblivious to the Palestinian people's pain, suffering, and struggle and brought them together, while the true, dynamic, and vital Palestinian forces are not included in this parliament. There is great discord among the groups within it and in the near future some of the groups will be expelled from the executive committee and PLO central council.

This propaganda wave is nothing but Western propaganda backed by those who have lost on the Palestinian front.

Formation of Gaza Municipal Council Suspended

TA2011190891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned that attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah will leave the Gaza Strip within the next few days to hold a series of consultations abroad on the formation of the new Gaza municipal council. The formation of this council is currently suspended due to a misunderstanding that arose upon the announcement of its establishment and after certain parties charged that it was being formed with the purpose of engaging in political activity.

Mr. As'ad al-Saftawi told our correspondent that the formation of municipal councils at this stage is an urgent necessity so that they can work to develop all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip. Al- Saftawi stressed that this step has no connection with the political work related to the peace process, because the municipal councils are governed by the municipalities law, which bans political activity and calls for devoting work to vital daily services.

Abu-Mazin on Shari'a Court, Lockerbie Charges

JN2111100891 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Nov 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu-Mazin], PLO Executive Committee member, has said that the Zionist attack on the Shari'a Courthouse offices in occupied Jerusalem last Tuesday indicates that Israel does not want a genuine peace process that would lead to a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East primary issue; the Palestine question.

He added that we must expect more from Israel than this, because it has no interest in the peace process.

In an exclusive interview with AKHBAR AL-USBU', Abu-Mazin noted that the U.S. provocations against Libya are an attempt to disrupt the current peace process in the Middle East.

He also said that for some time the United States has been making war threats against Libya.

Abu-Mazin called for opening dialogue between the United States and Libya to discuss points of disagreement.

He expressed his conviction that the Libyan Government is ready to discuss points of disagreement. He said: As for the style the United States is pursuing—which is a bullying style—it is completely rejected, not only by Arab governments, but by the Arab peoples as well.

He went on to say that the recent U.S. threats against Libya adversely affect the peace process, especially since Libya is one of the participating countries in the peace conference, being a member of the Arab Maghreb Union; it took part in the Madrid conference, and in the Arab summit that was held prior to the Madrid conference in Damascus on 30 October. [passage omitted]

EC Grants $61 Million for Palestinians

AU1911134491 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Brussels, Nov 19 (AFP)—The European Community (EC) approved a grant of 61 million dollars here Tuesday to help Palestinian communities in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories recover from the Gulf war. A spokesman for the EC's executive commission said the bulk of the money would go into revolving funds run by Palestinian organisations to make low-interest loans for housing.

The 48 million ECU (61 million dollar) grant is the first and major part of a 60 million ECU (76 million dollar) donation agreed by the EC in March to help the Occupied Territories cope with disruption caused by the Gulf war.

At the time, the community also agreed on a parallel 160 million ECU (203 million dollar) low-interest loan to Israel, in appreciation for its low-key role in the Gulf war. The loan conditions have not yet been settled.

The commission spokesman said that a sum of 29 million ECU (37 million dollars) would fund Palestinian housing programmes, and serve to boost employment and business in general. The rest of the money will go into agriculture, industry, services, education and training.

EC aid projects in the Occupied Territories are being administered by a Brussels-based EC official who after long negotiations was given diplomatic status by Israel this year and has complete freedom of movement in the region.

The spokesman said hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had lost their jobs in the Gulf states and neighbouring countries after the Gulf war, aid money from Gulf states had dried up, and the Palestinian economy had been shattered.

The EC has given over 500 million dollars in aid money to Palestinians since 1971. Last year, community aid to the occupied territories was down to 10 million ECU (13 million dollars).

Algeria

Acting FIS Head Discusses Election Participation

LD2011193991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1106 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Interview on the "Issues and Dialogue" program with Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, acting leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, by correspondent Slimani Mohsin Karin; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Karin] Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, yesterday the Algiers court decided on the question of the candidacy of the detained cheikhs, including Cheikh Abassi and Ali Belhadj [leader and deputy leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS]. It decided irrevocably to reject the case submitted by the FIS [to rescind a decision by the government to ban their candidacy]. The question posed at the start is: What is the comment of the FIS and the Provisional Executive Bureau on this issue, and second, does this decision concern the participation of the FIS in the legislative elections or the making of another decision? What is the position of the Islamic Front on this subject?

[Hachani] [passage omitted] As for your question and the decision made yesterday by the Algiers court to reject the candidacy of our cheikhs in the legislative elections, this is yet another manifestation which reaffirms to us the oppression of this authority, which transgresses upon the law and even the limits of the Constitution.

The issue of the candidacy of our cheikhs, we consider it... [changes thought] or rather, when the regime presented the election law, we remind you that there is a new article in this law which stipulates that the candidate must submit his application to the concerned authorities in person. This article is in reality unconstitutional. [passage omitted] This issue proves once again that the authorities are the quarter that always initiates the violation of the law and the Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Karin] Now, after you have heard the decision of the court, which as far as the FIS is concerned constitutes a basic condition for participating in the legislative elections, would the tendency within the Executive Bureau or within the FIS Shura Council probably be towards participating in or boycotting the elections?

[Hachani] As far as your comment that this issue is a basic issue is concerned, I do not want to deny that, and also I do not want to confirm it. This is one issue among others which we consider basic and which should be resolved by the regime if it wants to convince us that it really is ready to alternate power.

[Karin] It seems that the issue of the cheikhs has been settled legally.

[Hachani] Allow me. In Algeria, legally speaking this issue is unfounded, especially as far as the regime is concerned. I can now give you thousands of pages of material evidence and actual documents which would prove that if there is a quarter which does not attach any value to the law then that quarter would be the regime.

If there is a political intention to solve all these problems, then no legal problem will stop the regime. If the regime wanted to exempt anything, then it would do so, but if it wanted to stop, then it will. It exempts without checking the law. But if it wanted to take a position which would stabilize the situation and if it wanted the country to move on to elections, which would leave the people free to choose their leadership, then we could remove the legal challenges.

I would like to say that we are a serious opposition. We are a serious opposition. The regime is still continuing this measure. It stood firm and refused to accept the cheikhs as candidates. It did this through a political decision. I confirm that it was a political decision. This was the position, and there are also other positions. We have 2,700 fired workers. There are 2,700 families who up until now cannot earn their daily bread. We have people who died; they were martyred. We have people who were injured. We have many persons in detention camps. We have brothers who are political detainees in Constantine Prison, in Oran, in Ouargla, and in Blida.

The political situation is unstable. As the interim Executive Bureau, our duty is to stir up the political arena and to propose a stand to the Shura Council, which remains the decisionmaking institution, on participation [in the elections].

[Karin] Has the Shura Council met?

[Hachani] Until today, as I am speaking to you, all the political premises available to us confirm and even make it impossible for the Executive Bureau to propose to the Shura Council participation in the elections. More than that, if the situation remains as it is, then the Executive Bureau will not restrict itself only to a proposal to boycott the elections, but will also employ every available means, within the framework of the law, so that there will be no elections and so that the whole Algerian people will boycott these elections.

[Karin] Therefore, with the situation as it is, does this suggest a probable boycott of the elections?

[Hachani] The probable thing is the following...

[Karin, interrupting] If the authorities insist on the position of saying that they are implementing the law, particularly the electoral law...

[Hachani, interrupting] They say that they are implementing the law, or claim that they implement the law. In fact, the authorities are moving toward a complete retreat from the electoral law and other laws from the arsenal of laws which are now being presented to the National People's Assembly. We notice that there is an insistence on high speed action, as if they have to exploit

the opportunity before this Assembly concludes, and they have to exploit the opportunity to pass the highest possible number of laws.

In our opinion and analysis, there is a complete retreat from the multiparty principle in Algeria. When a law is legislated to oppress internationally recognized means of expression, and even those recognized in Algeria—there was the retreat from them within the context of, for instance, the assembly and demonstration law and others—and when a law is passed to allow the use of the Army and resorting to us of the Army, and which lowers the level of the authorities required to call in the Army; and when special courts for the press are established—now there are special courts for the press. When all these measures are adopted, in reality we make the following observation: The authority to use the Army was delegated to the president. In three years the Army has been called out three times and has killed Algerian people. When this authority is delegated to anyone who is lower than that level [the president's level], I ask you: What is the fate of the Algerian people in this context?

Because of this, from this place I call on every official in this country, I call on all these deputies whom the government insists on tarnishing up to the last day of their term of office, I call on them to first learn from past experiences; and second, I hope that they will consider their position before God and before the Algerian people.

As we see it, there is a move away from a political point of view. There is a complete move away from the framework in which they want to carry out multiparty politics.

[Karin] You still have not replied to my question on the issue of a boycott. Are you heading for a boycott of the elections? The other question is do you not fear a repeat of other events—you have talked about the June [1991] and October [1988] events—and more painful events? As far as the FIS is concerned, what is its responsibility in this respect in the case of a boycott and an effort to ask the people to boycott the elections?

[Hachani] In fact, I would like to emphasize that the authority which makes the decision is the National Shura Council and not the Executive Bureau.

[Karin] The decision has not been made yet, has it?

[Hachani] So far the decision has not been made, and the reason is that we would like to give the authorities the opportunity and sufficient time to provide a climate which would reassure us to take part [in the elections]. This is why we are delaying making a decision. We would like to give the regime the necessary time to enable it to clear the political climate so that we can, with God's permission, take part. To reply to your question, as part of the Provisional Executive Bureau in charge of suggesting a decision, defending it, and convincing the Shura Council to adopt it, our position currently is, and I have told you so, that it is frankly impossible for us to suggest participation if the situation remains as it is. It will be impossible for the Executive Bureau to suggest participation. Instead, we will act to make the Shura Council decide on a total boycott of the elections—in other words, to foil the carrying out of the elections, but, and I will emphasize this, within a legal framework. This is our position. If there is any development in the political arena initiated by the authorities, such a development will undoubtedly influence our suggestion to the Shura Council. [passage omitted]

As the Executive Bureau, within the limits of our powers and duties conferred upon us by the regulations of the Islamic Salvation Front, we in fact are still not convinced that participating in elections would resolve Algeria's problem. Why? Because, let me tell you that if we participated in elections—in any case, I would like to point out that the authorities found it hard to announce that the FIS was the only party that is fielding candidates in all constituencies, and it was said on television that no party is running candidates in all constituencies, as we are, praise be to God. This is honest evidence that we are sincere, and strong evidence that we are sincere when we say that we want change through the law and the ballot box. Even if we were not satisfied that this operation is a mere farce which does not differ in its contents from the farce that the authorities wanted to carry out on 27 June [the first date suggested for the general election], our principles prevent us from participating in the elections. Moreover, as for the consequences of this policy, we say that our position will be within the law; in other words, the policy of the FIS as an official party will be within the law. If a reaction from the regime were to bring the country out of the framework of the law, put this question to the law [as heard]; do not ask me. I tell that, as was the case last June, we will only use legal means. [passage omitted]

[Karin] You said that perhaps you would propose to the Shura Council the issue of boycotting elections.

[Hachani] I said more than that; I said that it will be impossible for us, if political conditions remain as they are, to propose participation, but we will have recourse to the proposal of calling on the people, at all levels, to boycott these elections. That is our position.

As for your question, it is a very regrettable fact that we believe it is impossible for us to propose participation, and you say: The Executive Bureau is convinced that we should participate. The thing I would like to emphasize is that the issue, as far as we are concerned, is a question of principle. [passage omitted]

[Karin] What is your current opinion of the FLN [National Liberation Front]?

[Hachani] It is the ruling party that is making everything to its own size, and it is opening the door to political competition by taking all the means of the people for its own sake: the information media, cars, civil servants, etc.—the means that belong to the Algerian people. It is taking them for its own sake. This is the nature of the

competition allowed by the FLN, which in fact has become a management front; it is no longer a liberation front. [passage omitted]

We consider marches, sit-ins, and strikes to be among the means of expressing political rejection. We employed these means, and when the regime saw...

[Karin, interrupting] These measures might obstruct the holding of elections.

[Hachani] But who will be to blame for that? The one to blame is the regime that fails to take a stand. God Almighty, when we kill about 100 Algerians [during last June's events], 100 Algerians were killed with bullets, sanctities were violated, they entered people's homes, and then afterwards it was as if nothing had happened—we can never accept that. At least measures should be taken which would make people forget that conspiracy, and then measures should be taken to prevent a recurrence of that conspiracy. Now, if a quarter seeks to make it recur, then that quarter will take responsibility for this before God and before the nation. We for our part behave in a way that takes into account the interest of the nation and that of Islam. [passage omitted]

[Karin] What will happen if elections are held and if the FIS remains outside of political institutions, i.e outside the next parliament?

[Hachani] As far as we concerned, our presence in various state institutions is not a goal. It is a means to realize other objectives. We want the religion of Almighty God to prevail, and to mobilize all the nation for the cause of God so that God's will may be everything. As far as we are concerned, our political exercise is not... [changes thought] it would be interesting for us to be present in these institutions, and participating in the elections would be a fundamental thing, but if we do not participate in the elections we will continue our political activity, with the will of Almighty God. (?Everything is with the permission of God), and God knows better. [passage omitted]

FIS 'Second in Command' Interviewed on Struggle

NC1811173291 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Nov 91 p 12

[Interview with Benazuz, "second in command" of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran during the Tehran conference on Palestine held between 19 and 22 October]

[Text] [ETTELA'AT] What is your position in the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]?

[Benazuz] I am second in command.

[ETTELA'AT] What about Ali Bilhaj?

[Benazuz] Actually, Abbasi Madani has two deputies, Bilhaj and me.

[ETTELA'AT] The rest of the FIS leaders are in prison. Why are you free?

[Benazuz] It is God's will. Second, when the FIS called for general strikes I was in the hospital for an appendicitis, and the Algerian Government did not know I was involved in the movement.

[ETTELA'AT] Reports claim that you are among the front's moderates. What do you so about that?

[Benazuz] I do not belong to the moderate faction. I have carried out armed struggles in the past and I have a long record of such struggles.

[ETTELA'AT] Did you agree with the unlimited strikes declared by the front?

[Benazuz] I agreed with a limited strike, but I disagreed with an unlimited strike because it hurt the national economy.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the FIS' view of the Madrid conference?

[Benazuz] We reject whatever the Arab rulers decide on Palestine, both in general and in particular, because they receive orders from the East and the West. We oppose all these solutions. Our initial principle is jihad. The problem of Palestine and of the Muslims can only be resolved by blood and weapons. Neither conferences nor the press can determine the fate of a nation. Pretending to shed tears over the Palestinian problem is only a waste of time.

[ETTELA'AT] Therefore, do you disagree with the recent decisions by the Palestine National Council?

[Benazuz] I do not interfere in that because I do not want to offend sensitivities. I have said that in general we oppose all solutions of surrender and that we support those who take up arms to advance on Jerusalem. We will sacrifice our lives and belongings on that path. There is nothing more to say. The Palestine problem has been a commodity for transactions in international markets for 40 years now. What have we gained? Nothing but heavier losses every day.

[ETTELA'AT] If the FIS' leaders are in prison when the elections are held in Algeria, will the front participate in them?

[Benazuz] No final decision has been made. Whatever will benefit the Muslims will be done.

[ETTELA'AT] Under the current conditions, are your publications such as AL-MUNQIDH still being published?

[Benazuz] No. They have been banned by the Army.

[ETTELA'AT] How then do you inform the people of your policies?

[Benazuz] In the mosques, at gatherings, etc. We are trying to start an independent publication and in the future we may be able to resume the publication of AL-MUNQIDH.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the FIS' stand on the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Benazuz] Algeria has found a sibling in the Islamic Republic. We consider the two nations to be brothers.

[ETTELA'AT] Why then did Bilhaj adopt an anti-Iranian stand, and why did the FIS not oppose him?

[Benazuz] At that time I was ill. Bilhaj, who is a zealous youth, lacks experience, and he published some things in the press. Answers were given to me by Brothers (Na'mani) and (Javidi), which I published.

[ETTELA'AT] As far as the Hassi Messaoud oil fields in Algeria are concerned, it is said that Algeria intends to sell these oil fields. We asked Mr. Belkhadem, speaker of the Algerian parliament, about this, and he answered that only its oil will be sold and not the oil fields. What is your opinion on this?

[Benazuz] The fact is that the president had said that if the situation continued, he would have to sell the four regions of Hassi Messaoud. This was only a threat and one which met with the people's great protest.

[ETTELA'AT] What contacts do you have with the party of Hocine Ait Ahmed and Ben Bella? Do you accept them more than the ruling party?

[Benazuz] All of them are "evil." We do not, however, ignore the fact that someone like Ben Bella is one of Algeria's symbols. Ben Bella does not have Islamic beliefs. He pretends to be a Muslim. But he struggled and was in prison for 25 years. We respect him from this point of view. But the other person whom you named is a secular person who, in our opinion, is not worthy to be considered a Muslim.

[ETTELA'AT] As far as we know, in addition to the political field, you were also active in the armed struggle. Can you give us more information on your armed struggles?

[Benazuz] I did not perform a feat, but I have given directives and advice to others. I have nothing more to add.

Government Rejects Loan Due to Al-Qadhdafi Remarks

NC2011110491 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The Algerian Government has declined a loan it requested from Libya because of an interview that Colonel Mua'ammar al-Qadhdhafi gave Algerian television. In it, he accused Algeria of becoming a "dwarf" and said that the Algerian people's sacrifices do not match their plight. He also tallied the aid that his country had given Algeria.

Egypt

President Mubarak Addresses European Parliament

NC2011152691 Cairo MENA in English 1211 GMT 20 Nov 91

["Text" of President Husni Mubarak's address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France on 20 November]

[Excerpt] Strasbourg, Nov 20—(MENA)—[introductory passage omitted] Following is the text of President Mubarak's address to the European Parliament:

Mr. Speaker, distinguished members of parliament. Allow me at the outset to express my sincere gratitude for your thoughtful invitation to address this august assembly. This invitation comes at a time when your countries and mine, Egypt, are engaged in a solemn effort to consolidate new norms and practices in international relations; norms that allow us to replace strife, conflict, and confrontation, with conciliation, dialogue, and cooperation. Globally and regionally, politically and economically, I feel we have to embark on a new chapter of interaction, consistent with the new realities of the world, and responsive to the desire of all peoples to live in peace, with the rule of law reigning supreme.

It is most appropriate, ladies and gentlemen, that in the wake of the Madrid conference, the first address I make abroad is to your assembly. That of the European Community, whose members come from nations that shall play a principal role in the making of peace in the Middle East.

This is not a mere coincidence. The Middle East and Europe are closely linked geographically, historically, and culturally. Our pasts have overlapped and our future and destiny are interwoven. Our history, yours in Europe and ours in the Middle East is replete with tragic events and devastating wars. In Europe, you have gone a long way towards closing this ominous chapter, notwithstanding existing difficulties in certain parts of Europe.

We, in the Middle East, are finally on the threshold of a new beginning:

First: We have defeated aggression in firmly standing against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Second: We commenced the peace process in the Middle East on 30 October in Madrid, one of the major capitals of Europe. In defeating the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the Arab nation witnessed an awakening. It was able to redress a (?mistake) from within its ranks and actively participate in a wide ranging effort in the defense of international legitimacy. As the Egyptian and the Arab

soldiers fought alongside the European, American, African, and Asian soldiers, to defeat aggression, international cooperation reached new dimensions. Similarly, on the peace front, the Arab negotiator sat side by side with the European negotiator, in an endeavor to achieve reconciliation and work for a better future in the Middle East. As we were successful in defeating aggression, I trust we shall be equally successful in building peace and opening new horizons.

This cooperation, where we all interacted responsibly, should launch a new relationship between Middle Eastern nations, the Mediterranean countries, and all of Europe in the years to come. Mr. Speaker.

We are on the right track. However, we have a long road to go, and must remain mutually engaged. On our part, in the Middle East, we have been following with great interest the dramatic developments that have taken place in Europe recently. In Eastern Europe, sudden changes surpassed everyone's expectations. New opportunities for peace and coexistence have emerged. Democracy and liberalization have generated a new impetus for progress and transformation. On the other hand, the rise of national sentiments has resulted in communal strife and disintegration. The civil war in Yugoslavia, a state that is dear to all of us, and the secessionist movements that are threatening the Soviet Union are a source of grave concern.

While we in Egypt, are actively concerned with the developments in Europe, we call upon you to remain continuously involved in addressing the problems of the Middle East, and helping in their solution.

We have followed with interest the calls and declarations you have made on the subject, most recently at the Madrid conference. The statement delivered on behalf of the European Community was eloquent and inspiring. In particular, we welcome the emphasis it laid on the importance of abiding by Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, together with the principle of land for peace. Equally significant, were the European positions on the occupied territories, including east Jerusalem, the demand for halting Israeli settlement activity, and the reaffirmation that Israel should abide by the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. The dramatic developments that we have witnessed in the past few years, particularly on the European theater, impose on Europe a new responsibility, most of all, in its relations with Third World nations. You are invited to give additional consideration to these countries as they develop their societies and reform their economies.

It is not my intention to define that role. However, I would like to share with you a few thoughts in this regard:

First:

The fundamental change in Eastern Europe has generated new hope and optimism in your continent and beyond. As freedom and liberty have found expression throughout Europe, your effectiveness as a major player in regional and world affairs has been greatly enhanced. In this context, I am confident that you shall continue to pursue your traditionally constructive role in the Mediterranean basin and in the Middle East.

Second:

Until very recently, the industrialized world, both in East and West, has concentrated its efforts and resources on developing its military capability. At the same time, development cooperation polices, pursued by the international community, have remained inadequate. Something must be done. A reduction of a mere 10 percent of global military expenditure, which has exceeded $800 billion, would be enough to double the funding earmarked for development cooperation. Furthermore, the large economic groupings that are emerging, such as the European economic area, should make it easier to pool resources together, and coordinate development policies. We should thus ask ourselves is the allocation of less than one percent of the GDP for foreign aid adequate in the world of today? Is it acceptable to see the net flow of capital to the developing countries fall by 50 percent during the past eight years? How much longer can we leave the global debt problem unsolved? I would like to interject here that concerning Egypt's debt, the international community has already taken positive steps, and I take this opportunity to thank all member states of the European Community for their support. However, many African states and other developing countries are still in desperate need for debt relief.

Third:

One of the primary challenges facing the world today is how to respond to the development needs across the globe. We, all of us, are confronted with a monumental task. What is needed is a comprehensive long-range strategy rather than ad-hoc measures or sporadic initiatives. It is equally imperative that cooperation policies on the one hand, and financial, commercial, and security policies on the other, are harmonized.

As a step towards this strategy, trade barriers must be removed at least vis-a-vis developing countries. The transfer of technology from developed to developing regions should also be encouraged in order to enhance productivity. Developing countries, on their part, should lay greater emphasis on technical education and vocational training. We, in Egypt, have been vigorously pursuing this goal for over a decade.

Fourth:

Democratic principles and standards constitute an essential condition for progress. Political freedom, and economic freedom, are two sides of the same coin. They can not be separated. In addition, we realize that democracy and development are inseparably linked together.

There is no real development without democracy. However, there is no democracy without development either. It would be difficult to imagine a genuine democratic process without a higher standard to education and social services, or, without satisfying the basic needs of the individual.

Some of our friends in the West have suggested lately that democracy and human rights must become the condition and the criterion for granting aid. We fully realize that the core and essence of democracy is uniform everywhere. Yet, you should also recognize that the mode and pace of implementation can vary from one country to another. Consequently, conditioning aid to certain democratic standards may ultimately, in some cases, create impediments on the path towards democracy.

Fifth:

Excessive armaments are no longer politically or morally sustainable. In the new world order, based on collective security and where priority must be accorded to the development goals, overarmament has no place. Europe and the Middle East, which have both been traditionally overarmed, must work together. We must build upon your recent achievements in arms limitation. We must urgently address the most dangerous armament trends particularly the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. I call upon you to renew your support for Egypt's initiative to establish a zone free of these weapons in the Middle East. I also call upon you to ensure that all states in our region adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Sixth:

I have noticed that many of you have become rather apprehensive of the contemporary movement towards Islamic revival. That should not be the case. The revival of Islam in itself, poses no menace or threat to any nation. Islam is a creed of tolerance and coexistence. It is opposed to violence in all its forms. The central article of faith in Islam is that mankind is one community, a community of believers who uphold the same values and ideals. The manifestations of conflict and hate which you occasionally observe are alien to Islam, even if they are perpetrated in the name of this great religion. Acts of despair and fanaticism are not in harmony with the teachings and spirit of Islam. In my view, they are part of a passing phase that will come to a close with the advent of peace and development then, the true face of Islam will overpower these aberrations.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished members, the positive developments that the world has witnessed both globally and regionally in the past few years have exceeded all our expectations, and have changed the world scene fundamentally.

Today there is a new reality. Many of the objectives we have long aspired for have been fulfilled.

We have a world community where principles are fundamental, where right has prevailed over wrong, and the nations of the world are ready to confront any aggression with determination and vigor, a world community where human rights are paramount and freedom sacred. A community aware of its interdependence, and determined to work together. This has become evident, in various degrees, in every region of the world without exception.

At the same time, one cannot ignore the major problems that still exist in different regions of the world. Some of them, if left unresolved, could ultimately tear the delicate fabric we are carefully trying to weave together. This leads me to emphasize that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. Furthermore, it would be inexcusable and immoral not to seize the opportunity provided to us by the recent positive trends of international relations to further consolidate our gains, and resolve our remaining problems. It is imperative that we, all of us and in harmony, build upon the wealth of goodwill that is widespread in the different regions of the world. The objective being to draw the nations of the world together, through greater understanding of our societies and of our common interests.

At this time, when regional groupings are consolidating, cooperation among regions, especially those already bound by strong political, economic and cultural ties is indispensable, a case in point is that of Europe and the Middle East. I sincerely believe that intensifying cooperation between Europe and the Middle East can have regional and global ramifications. Not only would it raise our cooperation to new levels, but it could also constitute a beacon for a wider economic cooperation and model to be followed by other regions. We have in our history and our shared interests, a fertile ground on which to develop a common future.

In order to ensure that the seeds we plant today bear fruit, it is of paramount importance that we widen our understanding and expand cooperation between Europe and the Middle East.

Towards these objectives, I suggest establishing a Mediterranean fo.um which would be expanded to include all of Europe and Middle East. As a focal point for dialogue and interaction between officials and non-officials, professionals and intellectuals, between the different strata of our societies, I am confident that this shall open new vistas for regional and global cooperation.

As I leave this suggestion with you for your consideration, I feel obliged to indicate that the key to the success of all these endeavors is the achievement of progress towards peace in the Middle East. A peace based on the principle of "land for peace", self- determination for the Palestinian people, as well as recognition and security for Israel. This underlines further our joint responsibilty to work for the success of the present peace efforts.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished members, let me at the end reaffirm Egypt's commitment to pursue this quest for

peace and work with you hand in hand for the betterment of mankind in the years to come, in order to allow future generations in Europe and the Middle East to look upon this unique period in our history, and rejoice as they work together, cultivating the fruits of our joint endeavors in these dramatic times.

The achievements of the past few years in all their splendor have lit but a small flickering light at the end of (?long) dark tunnel. A ray of hope for a better future we are duty-bound to nurture this light until the deep warm glow of peace and prosperity shines throughout the lands of Europe and the Middle East. [sentence as received]

After my meetings here, ladies and gentlemen, I return to Egypt with a renewed confidence that you shall work with me towards the fulfillment of these lofty objectives. Thank you.

Foreign Minister Notes Aims of Mubarak Tour

NC2011194791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the aim of President Husni Mubarak's current and upcoming tours is to assert the new dimension of Egyptian policy concerning cooperation among all Mediterranean countries, particularly cooperation between Egypt and other Arab countries and between Egypt and European countries.

He noted that the Mediterranean and EC countries' new policy plays an important role in the current peace process, and he stated that Europe's role is important and that its positions on a just peace are in agreement.

Mubarak, Delegation Return to Cairo

NC2011212291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening from Strasbourg, France, where his excellency delivered a speech to the European Parliament. The delegation accompanying the president also returned with him.

President Mubarak left for Italy on 18 November where he spent one day [word indistinct] extensive talks with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.

Government Seeks U.S. Removal of Syria From List

NC2011171691 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Egypt is currently holding extensive contacts with the United States in an effort to remove Syria from the list of states that sponsor terrorism, prior to the start of the second round of peace negotiations, which are expected to be held in the United States.

Egypt has affirmed that the Syrians cannot be invited to Washington to participate in the next round of talks if the U.S. Administration brands them terrorists.

The past few days have witnessed contacts between the United States and Syria to get the Syrian Government to accept Washington as the site of the second round of the peace conference.

Government Denounces Islamic Court Incident

NC2011100491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Egypt has voiced its deep concern at reports circulated by news agencies and Israeli radio on the Israeli forces' storming of the Islamic Shari'a Court in Jerusalem and the seizure of important historic documents concerning Jerusalem and land ownership in the West Bank.

An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry today stated that Egypt views this incident as a blatant violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and of Israel's responsibilities as an occupation authority under international agreements.

The spokesman said Egypt that strongly denounces this act and calls on the Israeli authorities to return the seized documents immediately to the Shari'a Court in order to avoid a further escalation and confrontation and to safeguard the credibility of the peace process which is expected to determine the future status of Jerusalem.

The spokesman added that Egypt demands that no unilateral action be taken to usurp the conference's right to negotiate the future of Jerusalem, which is important to Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike.

MENA has learned that the Foreign Ministry began urgent communications with Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations and instructed him to contact Arab delegations to raise the issue during the current UN General Assembly session.

Egypt has called on its UN delegate to hold consultations with Arab delegations to demand that the international conference urge Israel to refrain from such conduct and practices, to respect cultural values and historical heritages, and to cease its encroachment on the documents and contracts related to Jerusalem and other cities in the occupied territories.

Editorial: Israeli Mentality 'Retarded'

NC2011190991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—In an editorial entitled "One More Piece of Incriminating Evidence Presented by Israel," AL-AKHBAR today condemns the Israeli nation as an renegade state that stays true to its own laws which make it permissible to use violence and terrorism to usurp other people's property.

The paper refers to the Israeli pillage campaign against the Jerusalem Islamic Shari'a Court, in which Israeli soldiers confiscated historic papers and documents. AL-AKHBAR accuses the Israeli Government of demonstrating a disregard for the international reaction and contempt for international public opinion because it has not come face-to-face with a power capable of preventing it from committing the lowly crimes it has been committing without being brought to account.

The paper points out that the goal of the raid on the court was to steal, and perhaps burn, documents which give evidence to the legitimacy of the Arab presence in the city since ancient times.

AL-AKHBAR ridicules the perpetrators of this illegal and inhuman crime and their belief that concealing these documents would erase the city's identity and support Israel's claim to it.

This mentality, the paper charges, is dull and retarded. Stealing historic documents will not prove the Israeli claim. Hundreds of scripts and documents bear evidence to the Arab people's claim to this city, the sacred nature of which the Israeli occupation has desecrated.

The paper concludes by emphasizing that the continued Israeli desecration of sanctities will only act as another piece of incriminating evidence to be presented to the international public during the peace conference.

Envoy Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

NC1711143691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Lebanon Sayid Abu-Zayd 'Umar has stated that his country strongly condemns and denounces Israel's recurring acts of aggression against the south.

The Egyptian ambassador made this statement after visiting Engineer Mustafa Sa'd [leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization] in Sidon within the framework of his visits with political figures in Lebanon.

Editorial Examines Mosad Role in Lebanon Bombing

NC0911221391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—[passage omitted] In its Sunday editorial commenting on the explosion at the American University of Beirut [AUB], AL-AKHBAR points out that the blast came as no surprise to many people who expected a series of terrorist operations in a desperate attempt to stop the peace process.

The paper adds that the AUB incident is an unsuccessful method employed by groups opposed to any efforts to end the current state of tension and struggle in this region which has been going on for many years. The paper notes that if fingers are pointed as usual to Arab groups that have voiced a rejection of the talks with Israel, there are also other fingers pointing at Tel Aviv, which is no less eager to blow up the Madrid conference.

In this respect, the paper notes that Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service, has a record of carrying out such terrorist acts with a view to blaming them on Arabs to incur the United State's anger toward them. To achieve such an end, Israel has no qualms about committing any crime, even if it leads to the murder of many innocent people.

Concluding its editorial, the paper emphasizes that such attempts, no matter how often they are repeated, are bound to fail judging by the international and U.S. determination to bring the peace process to fruition with results that are worth the efforts made for it and the hopes pinned on it.

Accused Deputy Reappears, Denies Charges

NC1611135091 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Nov 91 pp 1,7

['Amr al-Khayyat and Rif'at Rashad report]

[Excerpt] Four days after his disappearance, 'Ayid Sulayman, the People's Assembly member accused of drug trafficking, visited the People's Assembly, met reporters, and requested a meeting with People's Assembly Speaker Fathi Surur. The deputy asked Dr. Surur for a copy of the general socialist prosecutor's report on his case. Dr. Surur promised to give Sulayman one today. Sulayman also received his salary from the People's Assembly treasury.

'Ayid Sulayman emphasized that the rumor about his escape was untrue and said that he has been at his home in Cairo since he was put under surveillance last Tuesday. He said that he was busy on Wednesday and Thursday at his son's wedding in al-Sharqiyah. I am happy to be referred to the court of ethics and I am ready to prove the source of my wealth in accordance with the Islamic shari'a, he said. Sulayman denied any dealings with banks because he does not like dealing in usury, and he said that the general socialist prosecutor's estimate of his wealth is very exaggerated. He said that he has no liquid funds and that all his wealth is an 80-feddan plot of land with an estimated worth of 80,000 Egyptian pounds. [passage omitted]

Editorial Criticizes State's Probe

NC1611093291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p 1

[Editorial by AL-WAFD Chief Editor Jamal Badawi entitled: " 'Ayid Sold His Land"]

[Text] 'Ayid Sulayman, National Democratic Party member of the People's Assembly and a notorious narcotics smuggler, has succeeded in concealing his wealth from the general socialist prosecutor. Sulayman sold his properties and smuggled his assets abroad. By the time the socialist prosecutor's committees went to Sulayman's

homes and those of his children, the homes had been stripped down to the bare necessities. Gone were the jewels, antiques, and high-tech gadgets. Sulayman had become a humble and Spartan man who deserves compassion. Would the government wish to start a charity campaign to collect donations for the honorable deputy? And, would not the Ministry of Social Affairs wish to allocate an urgent pension to the indigent assembly member?

What else did you expect, gentlemen?

Did you expect a "veteran" drug dealer to sit still until you take everything from him? Did you expect a master smuggler, who has connections with agencies and institutes, banks, and international crime, to do nothing as you move to eliminate his wealth? Have not you learned your lesson? Have you forgotten Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hay, seller of the poisoned chickens; Huda 'Abd-al-Mun'im, Mahmud Artisan, and other tricksters who fled the country with money borrowed from local banks? What made you wait until the man got away, until he smuggled $10 million abroad? Where have the all-knowing security services been? How did the traffic services and the registration offices allow Sulayman to sell his fleet of cars to his ever-loyal associates and accomplices?

The smuggling of Sulayman's wealth is damning evidence that this wealth was ill-begotten. Why else has he so swiftly sent his money outside the country? This is a fact that the government, through its control agencies, knows well. The government, instead of acting promptly on the issue, began a Byzantine debate that someone is innocent until proven guilty, and dealt with the drug dealer as if he were the owner of a bilila [popular meal of boiled wheat] stand. Sulayman enjoyed his parliamentary immunity long enough to get his money out of the country in broad daylight.

The government does what it likes when it likes.

The government has an emergency law that it claims it only uses against drug and foreign currency dealers. It turned its eyes the other way when Sulayman was dealing in both drugs and foreign currency. This laxity on the part of the government and the People's Assembly enabled the master smuggler to send his wealth outside the county. Is it possible for negligence to be so blatant? The National Democratic Party members knew who Sulayman was and let him sit in the People's Assembly as a representative of the people. The majority party was in a position to remove this stigma from the parliamentary and government record, but it did not. The National Democratic Party actually resisted the press campaign calling for the purge of corrupt characters from political life. Threats were made against the press and journalists who made such a call. Silence was urged so that corruption and fraud would remain unbridled.

Now, what will the People's Assembly do with the ostensibly impoverished Sulayman? Will it maintain its adamant opposition to the calls to cleanse constitutional and political life? Or, will the assembly rule that Sulayman is politically and financially clean and chaste?

This is an ironic story with many surprises to come. It will be interesting to see how it unfolds.

Opposition Playing Into Government Hands

NC1611170291 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 91 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The opposition began the story of the drug deputies. The newspaper AL-WAFD was the first to raise the issue, thereby scoring a point for the opposition against the government. It suggested to the people that the government is nominating drug smugglers as people's deputies from the National Democratic Party. Because one success leads to another, I expect the opposition will continue its attacks on the People's Assembly until the latter's weight and status crumble. This undoubtedly is a gain. The opposition also should be suspicious of currency and black market dealers and those who make illicit gains and abuse their offices.

But in so doing, the opposition also has thrust a sharp and severing sword into the government's hands; it took away the former knife. The opposition did not look to the future, and quick success lured it to falling into the trap. It is now the government's right to cut off the opposition's head in any future elections.

It now has become the government's right to draft a report about any opposition member in which it would claim that that member has a bad reputation. The various investigative departments would take on that task. The report could be filed by the departments of counternarcotics, public funds, moral affairs, or supplies, and it could claim that so-and-so is of ill-repute. Therefore, if that opposition member nominated himself for elections, the report would surface and the government would bar him from nominating himself or would distort his image among the electorate. Thus, the opposition's victory becomes a sword in its chest. It comes within the government's authority to brandish the sword of ill-repute in the face of any opposition member who nominates himself to any popular assembly, especially as an emergency law is in effect giving the military governor great powers.

The government will start digging up any charge against any person, even if the charge is a fabrication or lie. The government could say that Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din has a bad reputation because at one time he appeared before a court; and that Ibrahim Faraj has a bad reputation because he was placed under detention in 1981. It can do this without having to justify its behavior. It could also say that Ibrahim Shukri abused his office and that Hilmi Murad was fired from the cabinet, and so on and so forth.

Writing reports is no problem. It is an easy task as long as there are precedents and instructions and as long as the objective is to ban the opposition from entering the People's Assembly. This means it is not enough to forge election results to topple the opposition, but the government will chop their heads off before they even enter elections. Elections would then become a one-party affair; some members would be played off against each other by making some run for the party and others run as independents. Whoever wins then will be admitted into the party, regardless of who they ran for. The important thing is not to belong to the opposition. The investigative reports succeeded in wiping them out before the battle was begun.

The opposition has put so much pressure on the government that the counternarcotics report has become proof of the accusations against the people's deputies. But it is not up to the required level. The opposition thought it embarrassed the government and scored points against it when in fact the opposition has put its neck in the noose at the mercy of the government. The opposition has forgotten that sovereignty of the law works both ways—that it can work for or against someone, and that suspicions created by investigations are not proof; otherwise, there would have been no need for the involvement of the prosecution and first-, second-, and third-degree courts.

SLP Leader Opposes Mubarak's Reelection

NC1611094991 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Nov 91 p 7

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Socialist Labor Party [SLP] leader Ibrahim Shukri delivered two important political speeches at party rallies in al-Mansurah and Mit Habib in Samannud, al-Gharbiyah Governorate, last Wednesday and Friday. In his speeches, Shukri called on opposition parties, the Egyptian political powers, trade unions, teachers unions, and the public to act seriously to achieve the desired change, wrench away the people's right to a dignified and free life, and establish the foundation for a ruling system based on justice and shari'a. He also explained the SLP stand on Mubarak's reelection to a third term of office.

Shukri said: Brothers, let us act seriously and sincerely to achieve the desired change we have long awaited by developing the guarantees for a sound election process and for respecting the people's will. The entire world has changed for the better. Even Africa has developed. Zambia has recently witnessed free elections in which the president of the state and his party failed. Kenneth Kaunda, the champion of the Zambian independence, responded to the voters' wishes by stepping down and moving with his party to become the opposition. We in Egypt, with its great civilization, have not reached that correct point, as though we are living a Ruritanian existence. Corruption has spread like a cancer in the state tissue; the ruling National Democratic Party, which usurped authority, has employed all state organs and institutions—the media, the police, the Army, and all productive sites—to serve its own interests. [passage omitted]

This people must make their own decisions. I appeal to all parties, Egyptian political powers, trade unions, school staff, and the masses to act seriously, for they all agree on the need to stop election fraud. We need to abrogate the emergency laws because we need free people, not people ruled with emergency and freedom-restricting laws. [passage omitted]

Only your hands will reverse all these deteriorating conditions. O you masses of the Egyptian people, do not fear the prisons and detention camps of the ruling regime. You have to be a model for steadfastness, jihad, and forbearance.

I say to President Mubarak, you have a golden opportunity during the remaining period of your second term to pave the way for a sound democratic life in which the people choose those in charge of their affairs through an election rather than through a referendum. You have to prove to the people that you are not a ruler who wants to rule his people by the emergency law and other laws which restrict freedom.

As for reelecting Mubarak for a third term of office, Shukri said: I have my reservations. There are two things: First, President Mubarak himself said in his inaugural address—and former Sudanese President Numayri was sitting next to him—that he believed that two terms of office are enough. Second, the SLP's political program stipulates that a president can serve two terms only. I am committed to my party's program. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives PLO's 'Arafat 20 Nov

LD2011145891 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday afternoon.

President 'Arafat has now left Tripoli International Airport after his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Iran's Sheykholeslam Arrives With Message

LD1811100491 Tehran IRNA in English 0644 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Algiers, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hoseyn Sheykholeslam arrived in Tripoli Sunday to deliver President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to his Libyan counterpart President [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Earlier Sheykholeslam visited Algeria and submitted a similar message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Iraqi Delegation Expresses Support Over 'Threats'

JN2011175991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] A People's Assembly delegation met in Tripoli today with the people's congress affairs secretary at the Libyan Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

During the meeting the head and members of the Iraqi delegation expressed their backing and support for the Libyan people in the face of U.S. and British threats. They also reviewed the fraternal ties existing among the sons of the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries.

The People's Assembly delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Official Responds to Cairo Criticism of al-Qadhdhafi

NC1711111991 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 24

["Stands" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] Greetings Brother Anis Mansur:

Brother, in yesterday's edition you went too far in your attack on our revolution and its leader. I am writing to you from a position of brotherhood and experience that goes back almost 25 years. I am writing to you as an official who experienced the years of vituperative exchanges that strongly contributed to poisoning our relations and estranging our peoples. This undoubtedly serves our enemies whose chief task is to torpedo the remarkable resumption of relations during President Mubarak's reign.

Brother, do you believe that the solution lies in a Libyan newspaper retaliating against my brother Anis Mansur or against Egypt's leadership? Please rest assured that this will never happen, although you described us in yesterday's paper as impudent. Therefore, I speak to you with all honesty through your column. In whose interest is it to resolve our problems this way? We have had enough vituperations for well over 15 years during which we both hung out the other's dirty laundry.

Brother Anis, we and President Husni Mubarak have discovered that there is a better and ideal way to address our mistakes and that there is a more civilized language that serves and does not destroy. In whose interest is it to poison relations between our good people in Egypt and Libya, who undoubtedly are very annoyed by this language that the enemies motivate us to use and which they pay a high price for?

For the sake of more than a million Egyptians in Libya and the Libyans in Egypt, to safeguard the strenuous efforts of unknown soldiers, to build a structure to allow relations to endure even if we as individuals—regardless of our position or status—vanish, and so that the people and the nation endure, we should never use this language.

In saying this I am not robbing you of the right to express your own views. We also differ among ourselves over issues within and outside Libya. I invite you to carry on a constructive dialogue that will advance the wheels and light a candle to illuminate the road and disperse the darkness.

With my best hopes,

[Signed] Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, coordinator general of Libyan-Egyptian Relations

Decree Bans Hiring of Foreign Workers

LD1611084991 Tripoli Greater Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 91

["Text" of decision issued by brother secretary [Ma'tuq] of the General People's Committee for Vocational Training; date not given]

[Text] Article 1: A ban on the hiring or the renewal of hiring contracts of any foreign national at all levels of administrative units, as well as at national establishments and companies, will take effect from the date of issue of this decree.

Article 2: The following groups are excluded from the terms of Article 1.

1. teachers at universities, higher institutions, and institutions for advanced training.

2. specialist doctors, specialists in all medical fields, and nurses dealing with contagious diseases.

3. teachers of scientific subjects at intermediate schools.

4. teachers at intermediate vocational training centers.

5. accountancy experts and computer programmers.

6. all groups of Palestinians.

Article 3: The status of foreign workers whose hiring contracts have been approved and/or renewed by units, establishments, and companies, as stipulated in Article 1, remains unchanged until the end of their current contract. It is not permissible to renew their contracts. The concerned authorities must regulate their situation and settle the money they are owed immediately at the end of their contracts.

Article 4: Law enforcement officers, as defined by 1970 circular No 58, should, within their jurisdiction, implement this decision.

Article 5: The brother director of the General Administration for Training should, at work and during employment, take the necessary nmeasures to implement this decision.

Article 6: This decision will be made public by various information organs. It takes effect from the date of issue.

Arab Workers Excluded From Ban

LD1811135791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Nov (JANA)—Sources at the General People's Committee for Vocational Training have stated that the decision issued by the secretariat [unspecified] to ban the employment of foreign workers does not include brother Arabs working in the fields of construction, agriculture, and production. The sources emphasized to JANA that the Great Jamahiriyah is the land of all Arabs, who have the right of residence, ownership, movement, and political decisionmaking at people's congresses.

Morocco

Israel Works Out 'Deal' on Emigration of Jews

NC1911160591 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 3

[Excerpts] On 24 September Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi left his office and disappeared for three days until the evening of 27 September. When diplomats in Tel Aviv asked why this was so, they were told that the Israeli foreign minister was indisposed with a sudden illness. Levi returned to his office on 28 September, appearing vital and energetic, which practically refutes claims that he was indisposed. Where was Levi during those three days? Diplomatic information available to some Western and Arab quarters emphasizes that he was in Morocco, where he met Moroccan officials and discussed the transfer to Israel of thousands of Jews living there.

MISR AL-FATAH has obtained important and exclusive information on the new deal worked out by Israeli officials in the past few weeks.

After Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, the Zionists had to look to Morocco, where tens of thousands of Jews are living safely and peacefully. The object was clear: to have these Jews emigrate and get them back to Israel at any price. Following diplomatic contacts via the United States, it was agreed that Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office, and Binyamin Netanyahu, Israeli deputy foreign minister, would visit Morocco to discuss Moroccan Jews' immigration. Secret visits were made, the first on 14 May and the second on 26 June. During talks between the two Israelis and senior Moroccan officials, the Israeli Government made a specific offer to the Moroccan Government:

—The Moroccan Government will allow all Moroccan Jews to emigrate and reside permanently in Israel.

—The Israeli Government is willing to guarantee the Moroccan Government that these Jews will not be settled on territories disputed by the Arabs and Israel.

—In exchange, Israel is prepared to supply Morocco's military requirements and needs, whether directly via Israel or through a European country or the United States.

Once the first point is approved and implemented by the Moroccan Government and the third is implemented by the Israeli Government, Morocco could play a major role in persuading other Arab governments of the need to follow suit by approving Arab Jews' emigration to Israel. [passage omitted]

But Israeli officials did not obtain an explicit Moroccan pledge on Jews emigrating to Israel. The issue was unresolved until the Moroccan monarch visited Washington, where the U.S. President obtained his explicit approval of the Israeli demand. [passage omitted]

During Levi's visit to Morocco he handed the Moroccan Government a report on Moroccan Jews' immigration and the routes they should follow to Israel. According to information, these Jews are traveling from Morocco to France or Italy, where they are received by Israeli officials who arrange their travel to Israel. In October, Israel received more than 400 Jews arriving from Morocco via Paris and Rome. They had been handed work contracts at Rome and Paris airports.

Later on, Israel suggested to Morocco that it hold contacts with the Egyptian Government to allow the emigration of Moroccan Jews via Egyptian territories. Morocco did not do so, however, because it believed that the route the Jews now follow is free of any obstacles and because it prefers to keep the deal secret.

Thousands of Moroccan immigrant Jews are pouring into Israel in secret without anybody discovering the dimension and details of this major crime, which constitutes a new chapter in the conspiracy against Palestine and the entire Arab nation.

Opposition Parties Agree To Coordinate Stands

LD2011221991 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 20 (MAP)—The two leading Moroccan opposition parties, the Istiqlal Party (IP) and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) announced they agreed to coordinate stands concerning national socio-economic and political issues.

In a joint statement made at a news conference here Tuesday, the IP executive committee and the USFP political bureau proclaimed "firm determination to coordinate stands and join efforts" and pledged "to conduct a joint action meant to preserve territorial integrity, establish a genuine democracy and promote a national development and progress plan".

The two parties renewed commitment to the country's territorial integrity and called for further mobilization to wage the struggle for territorial unity and take up all challenges.

They proclaimed attachment to the democratic choice deeming it necessary to re-draft the Constitution in a way to "consolidate institutions' power and the state of law, democratize and modernize state bodies and build up a strong and developed Morocco in the respect of Islam precepts and the Moroccan people's civilization".

The two parties also called for bringing down the voters' age to 18 and that of eligible people to 21, the reviewing of electoral laws and the drawing up of new voters' rolls.

The IP and the USFP advocated the promotion of a national development and progress plan, the adoption of a national plan to ensure employment to youth and the integration of all development plans in the Maghreban perspective.

The IP Secretary General Mohamed Boucetta and member of the USFP political bureau Mohamed Lyazghi who later on answered newsmen's questions on the joint action said their parties were working in close coordination with the Organization for a Democratic and Popular Action (OADP/opposition).

The three parties' leaders held a meeting Monday "to adopt a plan of action and finalize joint action regarding the Sahara issue", Boucetta said.

On these parties' relations with the other opposition party "the Party for Progress and Socialism" (PPS), Lyazghi said the USFP, the IP and the OADP respect the PPS stands even if they do not agree with its choices. The PPS has its own political line with its own data, viewpoints, choices and objectives, he said. He however underlined the cooperation existing between the four parties at the level of the House of Representatives (parliament).

To a question on the USFP and the IP stand regarding the fundamentalist trends, Boucetta and Lyazghi said their parties were for the multi-party system but against the resort to violence and terrorism between the various components of the Moroccan people.

Tunisia

*Report Discusses Deteriorating Sudanese Relations

92P40064A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic
28 Oct 91 p 10

[Text] AL-SHARQ has obtained the documentation which led to the strain in diplomatic relations between the Tunisian Government and the ruling military regime in Sudan, and which culminated in the order recalling the Tunisian ambassador from Khartoum, a move interpreted by some as a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The document, which AL-SHARQ is publishing, consists of the cover of the diplomatic passport which Sudanese authorities issued to Islamic propagandist Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian fundamentalist movement "Ennahdhah," together with a request from the Sudanese Foreign Ministry to the embassy of a Western nation "whose name was crossed out but which is most likely France" for a multiple entry-exit visa for the above-mentioned cheikh. The request was issued, along with a photograph of Ghannouchi dressed in traditional Sudanese garb, under the name "Rashid Muhammad Sa'id." The request also gave his birthplace as "Wadi al-Nur," together with other information.

The political office of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Grouping, which includes the prime minister, the secretary general, four of the principal ministers, and which is headed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, issued the announcement recalling the Tunisian ambassador from Khartoum by mid-month. That announcement mentions "that the Sudanese Government gave many promises to cease this conduct, which jeopardizes the relations between the two countries." It declares furthermore that "Tunisia has to its utmost firmly based its established foreign policies upon the foundation of mutual respect and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries; therefore, it categorically rejects this kind of conduct, especially when it is exported from a sister state and at a time when Tunisia finds itself among sympathetic nations in complete understanding and support, after ascertaining the true aims of this terrorist movement and its methods."

The Tunisian Government issued another statement at the conclusion of a meeting of the political office, saying that "the Tunisian Government has followed with concern the continued support which the terrorist band known as the "Ennahdhah" movement has received on Sudanese territory in various forms in order to continue the conspiracy against Tunisia, to derogate its character and its constitutional establishments." The statement explains that Tunis had made an effort with the Sudanese Government "to enlighten it about the destructive aims of the Ennahdhah movement and to convince it of the need to cease this support in compliance with the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others and out of consideration for the trying circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing; also, to request a joining of efforts for the sake of unity and putting the Arab house in order."

News reports mentioned that the Tunisian Government's position was taken in light of a report presented by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya to the political office, which included the supporting documents.

It is also worth noting that Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel had declared in a news conference last May that Cheikh Rachid Ghannouchi was traveling around on a Sudanese diplomatic passport and that the leaders of the Ennahdhah movement were meeting in Khartoum. Similarly, in an interview with the French

newspaper LE MONDE published on 11 July, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali openly suspected Sudan. Neither of these two statements led, however, to the recall of the Tunisian ambassador. The documentation mentioned above was the last straw.

All of these associated items have come to corroborate what political observers pointed out after the Arab Islamic People's Conference which was convened in Khartoum last April, at which Dr. Hasan al-Turabi was installed as its secretary general and in which all of the fundamentalist cadres from the Arab and Islamic worlds took part. Subsequent events in Tunisia and Algeria have proved to be closely tied to the behind-the-scenes decisions made at the conference, in addition to the scandalous use of the media by the Sudanese regime for its work in training extreme fundamentalist elements in Sudan, including Tunisian, Algerian, Egyptian, and Palestinian cadres.

Tunis Not To Release Iraqi Planes, Frozen Funds

PM1911105091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Tunisia Refuses To Surrender Planes to Iraq Because of Its Support for Ghannouchi Through Sudan"]

[Text] Nicosia—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Arab diplomatic sources that Tunisia has refused to release a number of Iraqi civilian aircraft which have been stored at its airports since the Gulf crisis erupted last year. It has also refused to release some of the Iraqi money deposited in Tunisian banks and credited to the Iraqi Embassy in Tunis.

The sources said that the most that the Tunisian authorities are permitting is for a team of Iraqi technicians to visit to carry out maintenance work on the aircraft, some of whose parts have started to rust.

The refusal was conveyed during a visit to Tunis by a delegation sent by the Iraqi Government some three weeks ago. The delegation comprised a number of representatives of Arab parties close to Iraq.

The delegation tried to meet with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, but he was unable to do so. He only met with Chedli Neffati, secretary general of the Constitutional Rally, who emphasized that the aircraft issue concerned matters unconnected with the Gulf war.

Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Tunisian authorities accuse the Iraqi Government of supplying arms to opposition forces—and especially the outlawed "Ennahdha" movement led by Rachid Ghannouchi—across Sudanese territory and the states adjacent to Tunisia. They also claim that these forces have received Iraqi money via Sudan.

The sources said that there is long-standing coordination, which still continued, between the Iraqi and Sudanese Governments over support for the Tunisian opposition forces, especially the Ennahdha group. They added that members and leaders of the group are currently traveling in European and Arab states with Sudanese passports and that the actual leadership under Rachid Ghannouchi is based in Khartoum, with the assistance of the Sudanese Government.

'Aziz Meets With UN Representative Aga Khan

Urges Lifting of 'Unfair Blockade'

JN2011201291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz this evening met with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive representative of the UN secretary general.

During the meeting, they discussed the Iraqi people's suffering caused by the United States' persistence in maintaining the unfair blockade in violation of all international norms, and even the tyrannical and unjust UN resolutions that were imposed by the United States.

The deputy prime minister asserted that Iraq cooperated with the UN humanitarian aid program despite the fact that this program is limited and very modest. The program only meets a very small percentage of the people's needs of medicine, food, and other basic things in life.

The deputy prime minister stressed that the real remedy is to lift the unfair blockade imposed by the United States and its allies. He also stressed that the United Nations, its agencies, and those who believe in its principles are urged to use all means to lift that blockade.

The meeting was attended by the foreign minister, Iraq's permanent envoy to the UN european headquarters, and the head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department.

Hammadi, Envoy Discuss UN Aid Program

JN2111120891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive representative of the UN secretary general, and his delegation.

They discussed the results of the unjust economic blockade, which the United States insists on imposing against the people of Iraq.

They also discussed the UN aid program and what has been implemented thus far.

The meeting was attended by Naji al-Hadithi, under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

'Special Nature' to Aga Khan Visit

JN2111094191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH warned that any trend or thought of continuing the criminal blockade against Iraq will serve the evil aggressive objectives of the United States. AL-THAWRAH, in today's editorial, says: The continuation of the criminal blockade means that the international community has completely abandoned its values, ethics, and human heritage.

AL-THAWRAH says: There is no doubt that the visit to Baghdad by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan the day before yesterday has a special nature and great importance in the current circumstances for many reasons. This visit takes place a few days before the UN Security Council's discussion of the economic blockade, which has been imposed on our people for 16 months. This visit will also enable the UN envoy once again to acquaint himself in detail with the deteriorating health, food, and environmental situation in Iraq, and then, to portray this situation to the United Nations and the international community.

The paper notes that a few days—perhaps hours—before the UN executive envoy began his second visit to Iraq, Bush and his European partners fabricated, as usual, a misleading propagandist clamor to distort the Aga Khan's mission. This occured before it even started, in order to prepare and propagate for the issuance of a new international resolution to continue and maintain the unjust blockade against Iraq. Meanwhile, a general international approach, which is being crystallized and is escalating, calls for lifting this injustice practiced against the people of Iraq. Also, there is an expanding and deepening awareness in the world that this inhuman blockade is no longer justified now that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments to the Security Council and its resolutions and has cooperated seriously with the inspection committees and teams despite the fact that many of their practices serve the evil aggressive objectives of the United States.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Bush's fabrications and pretexts to maintain the blockade have been completely exposed. And certainly, his false claims that Iraq is not adhering to the cease-fire represents one of those miserable examples.

The paper says that Bush is continuing his rancorous aggressive course against Iraq and the Arab nation; he is trying to impose his views and interpretations on the international community away from human and ethical principles and values. In light of this, any trend or thought to continue the criminal blockade against Iraq means that the international community has totally abandoned its values, ethics, and human heritage. This also means that the international community has competely surrendered to America's dictatorship and absolute hegemony over international decisons.

The paper maintains that a radical and humanitarian solution to Iraq's exacerbating medical, environmental, and food problems lies, above all, in ending the unjust blockade and lifting the economic sanctions imposed on the country. We have no doubt that many international and humanitarian organizations share this view with us and call for this solution, the paper says.

Continuation of the policy of starvation and impoverishment, which Bush is pursuing against our people, explains the paper, will only encourage the United States to further use this inhumane method against all those who reject its aggressive imperialist practices. The United States will definitely repeat its experience with Iraq against any country clinging to its will, independence, and options; and this is actually happening now.

AL-THAWRAH says that Iraq, a founding UN member, is a cornerstone in the region's security and stability, and a vital part of the international establishment. The country's health and food situation, and environmental conditions should by no means be overlooked as a result of the continued blockade.

It is high time that all honorable and righteous voices unite and say a word of truth to deal with Iraq fairly and end the suffering of its steadfast people.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH states that lifting the blockade against Iraq is a noble pan-Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian task. On the other hand, any decision to prolong the crime of the age would mean that the United States has succeeded in returning the world to the law of the jungle and the logic of brute force—something rejected by the law of life and the movement of history.

Opposition Radio on Aga Khan Visit

JN2011163591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1439 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, radio stations and news agencies referred to the arrival in Baghdad of UN special envoy Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan to negotiate a renewal of the agreement allowing the distribution of UN food relief all over Iraq. Prince Sadruddin told journalists at the Baghdad airport that he was optimistic that Iraq would renew the agreement and that during his five-day stay in Baghdad he would urge the Iraqi Government to approve the UN's terms concerning revenues from Iraqi oil sales, part of which will be used to pay for food and humanitarian relief. Iraqi officials say that they will urge Prince Sadruddin to end the UN-imposed sanctions, which will transform Iraq into a UN colony. The news also said that Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan was expected to discuss the issue of humanitarian aid to Kurdish refugees in mountainous areas during the winter.

Yesterday and the day before yesterday, mass media also reported on statements by a number of British and European sides on the need to end the economic blockade, which the Iraqi Government has recently imposed on the Kurdish region and the Shiites in the south. These statements also urged the Security Council and other concerned international organizations to take measures to deter the Iraqi Government and to force it to retreat from that policy. Responsible Iraqi officials said they had adopted that policy and also withdrew government departments from Kurdistan to protest the presence of armed peshmerga in cities. However, an agreement has recently been reached with the government that the peshmegra would be withdrawn from cities. Withdrawal actually began after the said agreement was signed.

The facts, which the Iraqi Government should realize, are that it is not free to take whatever measures it wishes because it must abide by the Security Council's resolutions and the cease-fire agreement, which it signed with the United Nations and which constitutes a document for referendum. Moreover, the Iraqi Government is responsible, first and last, for the tragic situation from which our entire Iraqi people in Kurdistan, the south, and the center are suffering. It is also the Iraqi Government that has placed itself in this dangerous crisis, from which it may not be able to escape because of its irresponsible adventures against Iraq's people and neighboring countries as well.

UN Asked To Investigate U.S. Uranium Bombs Use

NC2111120791 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Nov 21 (AFP)—Iraq has officially asked the United Nations to investigate the use by U.S. troops in the Gulf war of depleted uranium bombs.

But in another move Iraqi officials questioned the role of 500 U.N. guards, deployed in the Kurdish north and Shiite south of the country, alleging that they are compiling reports on information unrelated to their mission.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, appealed for U.N. experts to determine the level of "radiation and chemical poisons that could result from the use of such bombs," according to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY.

A report by British atomic energy experts, published recently in the INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY, disclosed that allied armies had left behind at least 40 tonnes of depleted uranium contained in thousands of bombs designed to penetrate Iraqi armour. [passage omitted]

Committee Decides To Revoke 35 Emergency Decisions

JN2011155191 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 13 Nov 91 p 11

[Text] Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki spoke about the revocation of emergency legislation in a statement to an ALIF BA' correspondent. He said that the abnormal circumstances experienced by our militant country throughout the duration of the imposed war and the period following it produced extraordinary phenomena and situations, some of which were serious. He added: This negatively affected the lives of citizens in various spheres. Consequently, legislators were driven at the time to issue extraordinary emergency laws and decisions to tackle these phenomena and situations.

The minister went on to say: A main committee was formed to entrench and consecrate the phase marked by honoring the Constitution and safeguarding the rule of law launched and defined by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. At the instruction of his excellency the president, the committee will reconsider these laws and decisions as well as the submission of recommendations that would pave the way for their revocation. The committee is headquartered at the Ministry of Justice and chaired by the deputy chief of the Court of Cassation. The committee is made up of representatives of the Presidential Office, some ministries, and agencies not affiliated with ministries. The committee reconsidered the decisions issued by the Revolution Command Council that pertain to citizens' livelihood, agricultural and real property, security affairs, as well as other emergency or extraordinary laws or decisions.

Subcommittees were formed upon instruction. Each and every one of these subcommittee was tasked with reconsidering a host of decisions that fall within its jurisdiction.

The subcommittees held numerous meetings. They submitted their recommendations to the main committee, whose work resulted in the revocation of 35 emergency decisions, which were published in the form of decisions in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. The committee has continued its work to consider the proposals submitted to it by the Ministry of Justice and other ministries. The Council of Ministers issued directives affirming the importance of reconsidering emergency laws and decisions.

Prime Minister on Enhancing Cooperative Sector

JN2011171991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has affirmed that the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn regarding the need to achieve the highest possible growth rates in the cooperative marketing and production outlets will be a guide for achieving further prosperity for Iraqi citizens.

The prime minister chaired the meeting today, which was attended by the chief of the General Federation of Cooperatives, members of the Board of Directors of the Federation, as well as the chief and members of the specialized unions, which are affiliated with this federation. The prime minister said: Our ambition is to achieve quality development in the cooperative services and facilities being rendered in Iraq so that they can reach the most remote villages. He urged that union restrictions be bypassed in the cooperatives' work, that the sphere of the cooperatives' work be expanded, and also that efficient personnel be selected to work in the cooperative field. Furthermore, he maintained that small profit margins must be sought to epitomize the premise that stipulates that the citizen comes first in the work of the cooperative sector.

The prime minister asserted that the ability to thwart the economic blockade and alleviate its negative effects on the citizen's livelihood is directly linked to persistent endeavors, accurate performance of tasks, and determined action to secure the building of a strong economy, whose mainstay would be the demonstration of creativity in exploiting the capabilities and resources available in the local market. He noted the importance of the role being played by the General Federation of Cooperatives at the current phase being experienced by Iraq. He maintained that the fact that the General Federation of Cooperatives is linked to the Council of Ministers in the latter's capacity as an executive authority agency reflects positively on the march of the cooperative movement, as this sector is being supported by the state ministries and institutions.

Means of enhancing work in the cooperative sector and future prospects were discussed during the meeting. Similarly, the people's councils' role in bolstering and promoting the cooperative movement in its capacity as a key pivot in the economic life in Iraq was also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Hamid Salih al-Rawi, chief secretary at the Council of Ministers.

Border Post Workers Receive Salary Incentives

JN2011155691 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Nov 91 p 8

[By Sana' al-Naqqash]

[Excerpt] Baghdad—The Finance Ministry decided to give employees working at the Tirbil border post incentives ranging between 100 and 150 percent of their salaries to encourage them to improve their performance. The incentives also seek to prevent employees from resorting to negative conduct in order to meet their financial needs.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far said: The border post at Tirbil is currently Iraq's only gateway and the government is paying great attention to it. The cabinet adopted an integrated plan to renovate that post. The Finance Ministry also took a number of steps to deal with certain shortcomings at the post. It started to support the employees financially through allowances. It also periodically replaces the customs officials in order to avoid any illegal conduct. Furthermore, the ministry is doing all it can to choose the best employees to work there. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on UN Resolutions 706, 712

JN2111110091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has likened the procedures for

implementing Resolutions 706 and 712 to an American spider web, noting their intricacy, intertwined nature, and difficult applicability.

He told AL-JUMHURIYAH in a statement published today that the mechanism for implementing Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 is complicated and does not suit the dynamic and flexible process of oil marketing.

He explained that the procedures consist of 15 main steps subdivided into dozens of secondary ones that lead the process into endless labyrinths.

Moreover, the minister said, these complicated measures should be accompanied by an Iraqi-Turkish agreement on joint arrangements, with the knowledge of the Sanctions Committee.

It should be recalled that Resolutions 706 and 712 confine export exits to Turkey, depriving Iraq of its traditional markets in Japan and South East Asia.

Oil Minister To Attend Vienna OPEC Meetings

JN2011160991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Iraq will take part in the OPEC ministerial meeting due to be held in Vienna, Austria on Tuesday [26 November].

In a statement to an INA correspondent, Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said that the meeting will discuss the OPEC members' production ceiling for crude oil, which was fixed at their last meeting at 23.65 million barrels per day for the last quarter of this year. He affirmed that OPEC members were not producing in excess of this quantity before a resolution to this effect was passed, with the exception of some OPEC members, including Saudi Arabia, which always attempts to increase its production to the highest possible level to maintain a price lower than $21 per barrel.

The oil minister indicated that the increasing world demand for OPEC oil was caused by the far-reaching developments which have taken place, and the decline in oil production in the USSR as a result of the economic and political crises which plagued it—a matter which prompted buyers to make up for Soviet oil by purchasing OPEC oil. He affirmed that Iraq has reservations about the attempts to drastically increase the OPEC production ceiling, as this will affect oil prices.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said that Iraq asked, during the ministerial meeting held in June, for confirmation that it will have the right to increase its production quota in a manner that is commensurate with the development of its capabilities to match world production when the unjust economic blockade is lifted so that it can make up for the losses it will have sustained by then.

Pardoned 'Deserters' Return From Saudi Arabia

JN1911180891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Benefiting from President Saddam Husayn's noble gesture of pardoning deserters, 167 Iraqi citizens returned today from their confinement camps in Saudi territory.

The returnees expressed happiness for this noble gesture, which will enable them to live in their country and seriously contribute toward its reconstruction.

They affirmed that the Saudi authorities are very far way from Islam and they had been given harsh treatment during their imprisonment.

'Large Numbers' Prepare To Return

JN2111103291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says large numbers of Iraqis are preparing to return to the country from Saudi detention camps through the southern desert in the al-Muthanna Governorate.

The paper quotes citizens, who have returned over the past two days, as saying that "the new groups have left the camps and moved on foot toward the border."

The paper quotes al-Muthanna Governor Muhsin Khudayyir al-Khaffaji as saying that "a number of guides and several means of transportation are ready to leave for the southern desert to help the citizens who resolutely decided to return to their homeland benefiting from President Saddam Husayn's amnesty."

On Tuesday, 503 citizens arrived in the al-Muthanna Governorate, 300 km south east of Baghdad, from the border area with Saudi Arabia. They spoke about the brutal methods and bad treatment they received from the executioners of the Saudi regime.

The returnees said they were fired at, tortured by electric batons, exposed to tear gas, and subjected to immoral and indecent acts.

Citizens Asked To Hand in Weapons Within 2 Weeks

NC2011130891 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Iraqi Government has asked Iraqis to hand over weapons in their possession within two weeks in return for a reward, or face legal proceedings.

In a communique published Wednesday in the Iraqi press, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan said authorities would "buy up all the weapons held by Iraqis without permission", noting that they would not be pressed to disclose the source of the arms.

The handover offer, which takes effect on Saturday and is valid for two weeks, expires December 7, the minister said.

But the statement made no mention of the promised reward, which would not apply to "certain types of weapons and ammunition".

Al-Hasan said extensive searches would be conducted across the country after the deadline and warned that those still found holding weapons or ammunition would face legal action.

Al-Hasan, who took over on November 13, has also called on the Justice Ministry to impose five-year sentences on all those found responsible for shooting off firearms.

"I call on all citizens who have arms or ammunition of all types to hand them over to the proper authorities," he said in his appeal, urging local officials in various regions to facilitate the operation.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in August following a border incident between Iraq and Kuwait that Iraqi authorities were promising a monetary reward for anyone turning over arms and ammunition left on the battlefield during the Gulf war.

The government organized a campaign to collect small firearms from Iraqis in the wake of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Barzani Statements on UK, U.S. Radio Cited

JN2011164391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1434 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: This commentary is in light of struggler Comrade Mas'ud Barzani's recent statements. The BBC and VOA yesterday said that Iraqi Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani said that Kurdish armed men will fight in self-defense if Baghdad ordered the deportation of Kurds from villages in northern Iraq. The news item adds: His statements came at a time when thousands of Iraqi Kurds have fled the area surrounding the city of Irbil in the north of the country from fear of an attack that the Iraqi forces massed near the area may launch. Baghdad ordered civilians to evacuate tens of villages surrounding the city of Irbil, which is considered an important administrative center for the Kurds. Mr. Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Front, has said that the Kurdish armed men will resist any aggression against the Kurds. He also stressed what he termed the Kurds' faith in dialogue and peaceful solution. This was the text of the news item.

For further clarification, we say: This took place over the past few days. However, following continuous efforts made by our brothers in the coordination committee with the government, an agreement was reached on stopping the government forces' advance toward the new areas where peshmerga forces are deployed. Moreover, the Kurdistan Front committee in Irbil called on the people in the city and the neighboring villages to stay in their villages and homes because it reached an agreement with the government on limiting these moves as well as other actions that would hamper efforts and dialogue to reach a peaceful solution that was included in struggler Comrade Mas'ud Barzani's statement. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, we would like to note that calm and stability are currently prevailing in the aforementioned area, citizens have returned to their homes and villages, and all of them are waiting the resumption of dialogue to reach a final agreement with the government.

In this regard, we call on all parties concerned and the masses of Kurdistan to be cautious and vigilant over the plans and games of those who are trying to fish in disturbed waters—those who do not want for the negotiations to succeed and for our people to restore their legitimate national and democratic rights. Let all sides know that the peshmerga forces and the masses of Kurdistan will not remain idle toward any new aggression against the Kurdish areas and villages. They will also lie in wait for any act of sabotage or anything that would hamper the good offices and the option for a peaceful solution to achieve our legitimate national rights and the democratic rights for Iraq as a whole. This is the central slogan of our struggler Kurdistan Front. Let us all stand as one rank behind our Kurdistan Front and implement its orders and instructions in full. It is only through patience, steadfastness, awareness, and unity before anything else, our people will bury all conspiracies and destroy the dens of sabotage and corruption. No one must doubt this. Our forces and masses will prove this in the future. This is because we are the owners of right, and in favor of right, security, and stability, and seek to achieve the objectives and aspirations of our people, and democracy for all the sons of Iraq.

UN 'Forced' To Separate Hostage-Prisoner Issue

NC2111125991 Paris AFP in English 1024 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, Nov 21 (AFP)—U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was "forced" to separate the question of Western hostages and Israeli-held Muslim prisoners, a senior Israeli defense advisor said Thursday.

"The separation is a tactic imposed on Mr. Perez de Cuellar," Uri Slonim, an advisor to Defense Minister Moshe Arens, told Voice of Israel radio.

He did not disclose who had pressured the U.N. chief.

The Israeli Government fears that if the two issues are uncoupled its demand for information on its soldiers missing in Lebanon could be overlooked.

Israel had agreed to take part in a U.N.-brokered initiative according to which Western hostages would be freed in Lebanon in exchange for the Israeli prisoners.

But Israel, anxious about the fate of its soldiers, had attached a demand that it also be provided with credible information on seven missing servicemen.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad, which on Monday set free Briton Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland, failed to repeat its insistence that the releases be matched by the liberation of Lebanese Muslim prisoners held by Israel and its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army. [passage omitted]

Perez de Cuellar on Tuesday also stressed that "the questions of Israeli prisoners and Western hostages in Lebanon are different and they must not be linked."

Bilateral Talks Expected in U.S. in Early Dec

TA2011190291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab countries will apparently be resumed in Washington during the first week of December. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says that this is the emerging idea. No date or venue for the multilateral talks has been set as yet.

Meanwhile, a PLO delegation and a delegation of Palestinians from the territories headed by Faysal al-Husayni are leaving for Moscow. Dr. Nabil Sha'th said today that the delegations intend to demand that the aliyah to Israel be linked to a freeze of settlement activities.

Netanyahu Views Peace Talks, Israeli Policy

AU2011125291 Vienna KURIER in German 20 Nov 91 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister [title as published] Binyamin Netanyahu by Lucian O. Meysels; place and date not given: "America Is Not Leaving Us in the Lurch"]

[Text] [Meysels] Are you satisfied with progress and with talks at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid so far?

[Netanyahu] A start was made, and initial steps were taken. The real problems have not yet been tackled. We hope that the climate will improve when we continue talks.

[Meysels] Was the fierce battle of words at the opening session necessary?

[Netanyahu] The Arabs insisted on that from the beginning. We always stated that we wanted sober talks. However, the other side did not want to omit the ceremony. So we thought: Let them have it. We can live with it.

[Meysels] Does this mean that it would have been better to immediately open direct talks?

[Netanyahu] Yes, of course. Peace can only be achieved in this way. If all Arabs meet, they want to outdo each other in intransigence. Thus, the smallest common denominator had to be found, and it was very small indeed.

[Meysels] Why don't you talk with the Palestinians where they live?

[Netanyahu] We are not against that.

[Meysels] If Lebanon should again recognize the 1983 treaty—after all, it was concluded by a legitimate government—would you be willing to give up the security zone in southern Lebanon?

[Netanyahu] The issue concerning the security zone depends on the situation there. We are willing to do a great deal of things if we see that the Lebanese Government has been elected and is capable of preventing terrorist attacks on our territory. The only purpose of the security zone is to protect northern Israel. The security zone will be superfluous if this need should disappear.

[Meysels] Do you still consider talks with Syria useful, in view of the conditions they set? The Syrians called for the unconditional surrender of the Golan heights before the start of negotiations.

[Netanyahu] I believe that the Syrians will be flexible. They will realize that they would have to pay an enormous price for their intransigent attitude—not only as far as public opinion is concerned, but with regard to the support that they expect from other countries. Thus, I

hope for a change of opinion in Damascus—if not for the sake of peace, for the sake of Syria's own interests.

[Meysels] President Mubarak's proposal for a "halt to settlements in return for lifting the Arab economic embargo" met with little enthusiasm. Would a end to settlement activities not be worth considering to achieve an end to the intifadah?

[Netanyahu] This would mean that we would be succumbing to blackmail. The intifadah would start again every time we contradict the Arabs. If you want to talk about peace, you must either choose peace or violence. The Arabs have to make this choice now. We will not reward an end to the intifadah with political concessions. The settlement issue is linked to the territorial issue. We will discuss this in the course of the talks.

[Meysels] When talking about settlements, do you differentiate between those in the annexed Golan Heights and those in the West Bank?

[Netanyahu] Only in a legal sense. However, it is important not to forget that both regions have been used as launching pads for attacks on Israel by the Arabs. We did not attack the Arabs. We came to these areas when we were defending ourselves against Arab attacks. Now the Arabs are demanding that these territories automatically should be given back. This is unparalleled in history—that an aggressor can demand the return of the territory that he used for his attack. If aggression goes unpunished, it will repeat itself.

[Meysels] What do you think about the "wild settlements" that have repeatedly been established by Jewish extremists without the consent, or even against the explicit will, of your government?

[Netanyahu] This would be against the law. If somebody tried to do that, he would immediately be called to account.

[Meysels] Nevertheless, not only Arab fundamentalists, but also Jewish extremists are trying to obstruct peace negotiations....

[Netanyahu] One cannot compare the two groups. I know that the media love to draw unacceptable parallels. However, there is no Jewish counterpart to Arab terrorism. In addition, parallels are useless if the world forgets that Israel covers only one-third of one percent of the Arab world. We were the victims and are looking for our legitimate place among the nations. It is not asking too much of the Arabs, who possess huge territories and who are rich thanks to their oil, that they should accept a small Jewish state, without trying to constantly reduce its territory until it is no longer viable.

[Meysels] Does this not rule out sensible autonomy for the Palestinians?

[Netanyahu] Of course not. We want to resolve both problems at the same time. Security and a modus vivendi with the Palestinians are quite compatible. It will certainly not be easy, but for this reason we must negotiate. However, we cannot determine the outcome before the start of talks, as the Arabs would like to. If they enter talks with maximum demands, why should we not do the same?

[Meysels] Do you see a new Palestinian leadership emerging in the talks, which might be against the PLO or exist side by side with it?

[Netanyahu] Maybe. One cannot say anything at this point. The problem is that claims to the leadership are decided with a gun among the Arabs. The voters decide in our country.

[Meysels] Thus, the Arabs could influence decisions by participating in elections in Israel.

[Netanyahu] We would welcome that. This is a right they only enjoy in Israel.

[Meysels] Let me ask you a final question. Do you fear a decline in U.S. support for Israel?

[Netanyahu] No, I do not. The ties between the United States and Israel are based on bonds between the people. We have the same values, and this is a lasting link. Day-to-day politics do not affect that. Our ties will endure in the same way a rock withstands a sand storm.

Golan Compromise Viewed at Labor Party Conference

Rabin—'Territorial or Other' Compromise

TA2111102391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Nov 91 pp 1, 15

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz and Bina Barzel]

[Excerpt] "For peace we must give up not only centimeters, but many kilometers," Yitzhaq Rabin declared yesterday at the opening of the political discussion at the Labor convention.

Rabin's speech, which was listened to attentively by all participants, seemed like an especially dovish address.

"We want peace and security," Rabin announced, "not control over 1.7 million Palestinians and not annexation of most of the territories."

Rabin clarified his position about territorial compromise, claiming that Labor's agreement to that was the basic difference between it and the Likud. "Unified greater Jerusalem, the capital of Israel; the Jordan Rift Valley will be the security border under Israel sovereignty and will be defended by settlements and the army; and on the Golan Heights, a readiness for territorial or other compromise for peace." Rabin rejected the possibility of "a Palestinian state between us and Jordan."

But if there were those who found a change in his political position, Rabin hastened to correct them. "I

have not changed my view, we must not leave the Golan Heights," Yitzhaq Rabin told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night.

"I am talking about a compromise, but not only a territorial compromise. I am also talking about other possibilities and I stressed that it involves a 'territorial or other compromise.' I do not want to go into details about what the other compromise is at the moment. There are all sorts of plans and when the time comes we will disclose them." [passage omitted]

Further on Rabin Remarks

TA2111121691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with Knesset member Yitzhaq Rabin at the Labor Party convention by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel on 21 November—recorded]

[Text] [Deqel] Mr. Rabin, at yesterday's session of the Labor conference, you made it very clear that you support a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. You have been quoted on numerous occasions in the past as saying that Israel cannot descend from the Golan Heights even in return for peace. Do you not see a contradiction here?

[Rabin] There is no contradiction at all. What did I say? I said that we should not get down from the Golan Heights. There were those who attempted to interpret my remarks as meaning no withdrawal from the Golan Heights. I said that Israel should not leave the Golan Heights. I also am opposed today to descending from the Golan Heights, even in return for peace.

[Deqel] What is the difference between getting down from and withdrawing?

[Rabin] To withdraw means returning to the international border between Mandatory Eretz Yisra'el and Syria. Not leaving the Golan Heights, even in return for peace, means remaining on at least part of the heights. Yesterday I used the term territorial or other compromise, and I did not want to get into details.

[Deqel] What other compromise? Perhaps you could be more specific?

[Rabin] Why? I do not want to give any details. Why am I stressing the issue of territorial compromise more today? This comes in reaction to President Bush's speech at the Madrid conference. An American president used the term territorial compromise and not territories for peace for the first time since the Six-Day War. Until today, the U.S. interpretation of territories for peace could have meant all the territories.

Party's Political Platform Adopted

TA2111124791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Party Chairman Shim'on Peres succeeded in persuading the Labor convention to drop all the objections that had served as bones of contention between the hawks and doves. The convention greeted his plea with a standing ovation. Subsequently, the doves announced that they will not raise their objections, while the hawks continued to demand a vote on theirs. Ultimately, the convention struck off all the objections, which pleased the doves.

In a speech closing the political debate, Peres told the delegates that all day yesterday and through the night, members of both camps tried and failed to reach a compromise on the disputed issues, although they came close to reaching an agreement. Therefore, he called on the delegates to drop all their objections and to endorse the resolutions presented by the committee that drafted the party's platform. Peres emphasized that the doves should drop their demand to include self-determination and a Palestinian state in the platform. On the other hand, he called on the hawks to agree to freeze settlement in the territories for a year.

After counting the ballots, it emerged that the new Labor platform will not include a clause rejecting the PLO and will mention nationalist rights for the Palestinians.

A vote was taken on the question of the Golan Heights and the results were tallied: 720 delegates agreed that Labor should support only the strengthening of existing settlements on the Golan Heights. The hawks demanded that the platform state that Labor will support the strengthening of settlements and omit the word existing. This position only mustered the support of 674 delegates, however, and it was voted down.

Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin said that the political platform adopted by the convention blurs the position Labor has held to date whereby talks should be conducted only with residents of the territories. He added that the term nationalist rights as adopted by the convention is already being interpreted as willingness to accept a Palestinian state.

Hayim Ramon welcomed the spirit of unity that was demonstrated in the voting. He said many of his rivals congratulated him after the vote and emphasized that he had at no stage announced that he would quit the party.

Earlier, the convention passed by a large majority a resolution whereby a representative of the Druze community will be given the 30th slot on the party's Knesset list in the next elections.

Soviet Colonel Tours IDF Bases on Golan Heights

TA2111122491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Excerpts] A Russian colonel visiting Israel last week as a member of a Soviet delegation toured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases on the Golan Heights. He was the first Soviet officer to visit an IDF base since 1967, when relations between the two countries were severed. [passage omitted]

The Soviet delegation arrived in Israel to study the needs of the USSR Embassy, which is due to reopen soon. The Soviet colonel was invited to tour IDF bases on the Golan Heights and, within that framework, visited an armored division on the plateau.

Arens: Al-Hirawi Hizballah Remarks 'Very Grave'

TA2011163191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that the Lebanese president's remarks yesterday, that Hizballah will be allowed to go on operating undisturbed against Israel in south Lebanon, are very grave and do not indicate a desire for peace with Israel. It is clear to us, Arens said, that the Lebanese president made these remarks on instructions from Damascus. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Arens made his remarks during a tour of Army posts along the northern border.

General Discusses Continued Operations in Lebanon

TA2011164591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue carrying out what he termed its extensive and diversified operations in every sector of south Lebanon.

[Begin recording] [Mordekhay] There is no doubt that our extensive and diversified activity, about which I do not intend to be specific, is a factor affecting the situation in the field. We will pursue the entire range of our activities to make it clear to Hizballah and their sponsors that they ought to change their course of action. We will make every effort to keep danger from our northern border.

[Horowitz] Including continued IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] sorties north of the security zone?

[Mordekhay] Including every kind of necessary operational activity in the security zone, south of the security fence, and north of the security zone. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 20 November carries a similar report stating that "as reported on the Voice of the South radio station," Gen. Mordekhay "has issued a warning to Lebanon and the terrorists saying that, so far, Israel has made do with aerial bombardments and artillery shelling, but it can use many more methods of operation." The report cites Mordekhay as saying that "the Lebanese Government and Army will bear full responsibility for anything that happens in the future if they fail to prevent Hizballah and other terrorist organizations from operating against the IDF and the SLA."]

Levi Congratulates Shevardnadze Upon Appointment

TA2011183891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has sent a congratulatory wire to Eduard Shevardnadze upon his return to the post of Soviet foreign minister. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Levi wished success to his Soviet counterpart, noting that the foundations for the normalization of ties between the two countries had been laid during their meeting last year.

Dialogue To Establish Ties With Angola Under Way

TA2111135891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Israel and Angola are holding a dialogue with the aim of establishing diplomatic relations. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller learned that Israeli representatives visited Angola last month. The Angolan civil war ended several months ago, after a 16-year-long struggle. Multiparty elections will be held there for the first time next year. Until peace was achieved, a Marxist government was in power in Angola. The present government calls itself social democratic. Angolan representatives are participating in the Labor conference.

Break-In at Muslim Court 'Operationally Appropriate'

TA2011183191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The commission that investigated the police break-in into the Islamic Shar'ia Court in East Jerusalem has ruled that the police move was operationally appropriate. At the same time, the commission recommended that the police find better ways to process incoming information and relay operational reports through the system's channels. The commission made no personnel recommendations.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police commissioner has endorsed the inquiry commission's findings. Following a debriefing with all the officers involved in breaking into the Shari'a Court, Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner noted that he appreciates the Jerusalem policemen's action. He noted that in the past, religious and civil Muslim sites had served as launching pads for hostile activities, including

armed attacks. He said that the information police had received left them with no choice, but to enter and search the Shari'a Court—a step that lasted three minutes only.

At the same time, the commissioner expressed regret for the aggravation caused to the Muslim residents, the Waqf personnel, and the Shari'a Court members.

Palestinians Forbidden To Meet PLO Officials

TA2011062191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] It now has been learned that residents of the territories are forbidden to meet with PLO officials according to orders issued by the military government. This issue came up in the course of the police investigation against Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Zakariya al-Agha because al-Agha is a Gaza resident while the law banning meetings with the PLO only applies to those residing in Israel and its citizens. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum is here with the details:

When the police received complaints against the three Palestinian notables—Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni and Zakariya al-Agha—over suspicions that they had meet with PLO officials abroad, the police senior command deliberated over whether there was any room to open an investigation against Zakariya al-Agha. As for 'Ashrawi and al-Husayni, it was clear that the law banning any meetings with PLO officials applies to them as Faysal al-Husayni lives in East Jerusalem, while Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, although residing in Ramallah, is listed as a resident of East Jerusalem on her identity card. Zakariya al-Agha enjoyed a different status. As a resident of the Gaza Strip, the civil law, which only addresses Israeli residents and citizens, did not apply to him.

However, a probe carried out by the police headquarter's investigations department revealed that the military government in the Gaza Strip and later in Judaea and Samaria had issued injunctions forbidding the residents of the territories to meet PLO officials several years ago. This is probably the reason behind the attorney general's decision to launch an investigation against al-Agha as well.

An investigation yesterday by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe revealed that defense establishment sources had in the past learned of meetings between prominent notables in the territories and PLO leaders abroad; however, following consultations and deliberations, it had been decided not to prosecute them. The defense establishment's guiding instructions on this matter are to differentiate between meetings in which the Arab residents of the territories meet with PLO officials for hostile purposes, which are defined as hostile terrorist activity and which result in the prosecution of the participants, and meetings for political purposes, which the defense establishment does not deal with as far as is known.

King Accepts Al-Masri, Cabinet Resignation

JN2111101591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this morning received at the Royal Hashemite Court Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and members of the cabinet, who submitted their resignations to his majesty.

His majesty expressed to al-Masri and the members of his cabinet his thanks and appreciation for their efforts in the service of national and pan-Arab objectives during the critical stage through which the region is passing.

His majesty bestowed the studded al-Nahdah medal on Tahir al-Masri.

A royal decree was issued appointing His Excellency 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah as chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

New Cabinet Ministers Named

CM2111122291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1224 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn entrusted al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir to form a new cabinet comprising 29 ministers as follows:

Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and minister of defense;
Mr. Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education;
Mr. 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport;
Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, foreign minister;
Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and commerce;
Dr. 'Awad Khulayfat, minister of higher education;
Mr. Yanal Hikmat, minister of tourism and antiquities;
Mr. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for prime ministry affairs;
Mr. Basil Jardanah, minister of finance;
Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of planning;
Mr. Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, minister of justice;
Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of labor;
Mr. Jamal al-Sarayirah, minister of communications;
Mr. Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, minister of public works and housing;
Mr. Samir Qa'war, minister of water and irrigation;
Mr. Jamal Hadithah al-Khurayshah, minister of state;
Mr. Jawdat al-Subul, minister of the interior;
Mr. 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of energy and mineral resources;
Dr. Salih Irshaydat, minister of youth;
Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs;
Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, minister of municipalities and rural affairs and environment;
Mr. Mahmud al-Sharif, minister of information;
Mr. 'Atif al-Butush, minister of state for parliamentary affairs;
Mr. Sultan al-'Adwan, minister of state;
Dr. Mahmud al-Samrah, minister of culture;
Mr. Muhammad al-Saqqaf, minister of supply;
Dr. 'Arif al-Batayinah, minister of health;
Dr. Fayiz al-Khasawinah, minister of agriculture; and
Dr. Amin 'Awwad Mashaqibah, minister of social development.

Brotherhood: No Role in 'Concession' Government

LD2011151491 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Athens, Nov. 20, IRNA—The Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Muslim Brotherhood) in Jordan will not participate in any government that hold talks to give concession to the Zionist state.

"Ikhwan will not participate in any government that accepts to give an inch of Palestine to the foreigners, and particularly to Israel, because it would violate the Islamic faith," Muslim Brotherhood leader 'Abd al-Rahman al-Khalifah told IRNA by phone from Amman Wednesday.

A new Jordanian government, led by a relative of King Husayn, Sharif Bin-Shakir, is to be announced by the end of the week, reports from Amman say.

The former government of Tahir al-Masri resigned last week amidst severe criticisms of his decision to hold direct talks with Israel in the U.S.-sponsored Madrid conference.

Asked if the Ikhwan would give the vote of confidence to the Bin-Shakir government, al-Khalifah said the question was "premature, because the vote of confidence takes place after the policy statement of the new government."

The Ikhwan hold 25 of the 80-seat parliament. Together Islamic groups control nearly half of the seats. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri Cites 'Domestic Reorganization' in Move

JN2011075991 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Premier Tahir al-Masri said last night he was satisfied with the achievements of his government in the last five months. In a press briefing following the cabinet session, Mr. al-Masri said the resignation of the government aimed at supporting the democratic process in the country, and it was within the framework of domestic reorganization. He said the final word on the government's performance is decided by the people, adding that he was ready to accept the judgment of the citizens. Mr. al-Masri said he would continue to be an honest servant for the homeland and its leader, his majesty the king.

Outgoing Government Unveils Draft 1992 Budget

JN2011073191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[BY JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The outgoing government of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri Tuesday unveiled a JD [Jordanian Dinars] 1,278 billion draft budget for the year 1992 with a deficit of JD 107 million—a slash in deficit by half over 1991.

The draft budget, which will be presented to Parliament before the end of this month for debate during the legislative authority's regular session beginning in December, reflects an increase of 10 per cent above the 1991 budget.

The deficit will be covered by external and internal loans.

The JD 107 million deficit before financing represents slightly less than four per cent of the estimated gross domestic product (GDP), but it was not immediately known whether the actual deficit with financing will be compatible with the levels sought by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A cabinet statement carried by Jordan Television noted that foreign exchange reserves of the country had gone up dramatically and said industrial production had achieved an increase of 15 per cent during the past three months. Quoting a Central Bank of Jordan bulletin, the statement said the increase in industrial production was the highest ever recorded in Jordan's history.

The main features of the budget are:

—Domestic revenues, including recovered loans, are estimated at JD 882 million—94.3 per cent of the total current expenditure. The corresponding figure for 1991 was originally estimated at JD 752 million, but the cabinet statement issued Tuesday said this was reassessed and raised to JD 769 million

—External committed grants are estimated at JD 281 million, including JD 105.3 million in grants due in 1991 but expected to be paid in 1992. The estimated external assistance in grants and loans in the 1991 budget was JD 200 million.

—Total current expenditure is estimated at JD 940 million and capital expenditure at JD 338 million—an increase of 6.4 per cent and 46 per cent respectively over the figures for 1991.

—JD 45 million have been allocated for pay increases for civil and security personnel including the Armed Forces, as well as pension hikes for retired servicemen and civil servants.

—The cabinet statement indicated that the GDP was expected to be around JD 2.8 billion by saying that the JD 338 million allocation for capital expenditure was around 12 per cent of the GDP. It said the JD 108 million increase in capital expenditure in 1992 over the corresponding figure for 1991 was devoted to providing and expanding the basic facilities of local infrastructure for development.

While no definite details were immediately available, this increase was interpreted as warranted by the return of a quarter million expatriates and their families from Kuwait and other Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The cabinet statement did not give details of the various allocations, but emphasised that "sufficient" amounts were provided for to increase basic services. It cited as an example a rise of 8.2 per cent in the current expenditure and 29 per cent in capital expenditure for the Health Ministry but did not give figures.

According to the statement, allocations are made to create 6,300 new jobs in government departments and security forces as well as other public institutions, In addition, the allocation for vocation training will be boosted by 10 per cent, the statement said, noting that the vocational training corporation had trained 14,000 people during the year.

The government will also give priority to job-creating projects in the various governorates and provinces, particularly in the area of agriculture and other rural projects, including schools and health centres and other government facilities.

The statement did not make any direct reference to an emergency budget of JD 186.5 million which, according to informed sources, is contingent on the Kingdom receiving external assistance over and above the provisions made in the regular budget.

The 1991 budget had a similar provision for JD 120 million.

The cabinet statement said the government would continue subsidising basic foodstuffs but did not provide any figure. According to informed sources, an allocation of JD 40 million has been made for subsidies in the budget, reflecting a reduction of over JD 20 million for subsidies during 1991.

The reduction in subsidy allocation was interpreted as a government move to reorganise the subsidy system, particularly involving bread and wheat, by early 1992. One of the ideas floated by senior officials is the introduction of bread coupons for Jordanian citizens, excluding commercial organisations, non-Jordanian residents and visitors.

In another move, the government also announced a means to avoid dual taxation and certain exemptions from the recently intoduced consumer tax which drew an angry reaction from industrialists. The exemption covers those industries which use raw materials on which they already pay consumer tax at the sources.

According to a list published in the official gazette, these items exclude bolt iron and alcohol used to produce alcoholic beverages.

All supply contracts made before Nov. 15 with government departments, public institutions, universities, municipal councils, the civilians and military consumers corporation and the national carrier Royal Jordanian were excluded from the consumer tax provision.

Bread Subsidies To Be Maintained

JN1311141291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has affirmed that the government will maintain subsidies on bread and flour as they are right now. He added that there will be no increases whatsoever in the prices of these two commodities.

In a statement to JNA, the prime minister pointed out that the Council of Ministers has not made any decision on the removal of subsidies, price increases, or the issuing of ration cards. He added that the issue is a mere exploration of avenues aimed at identifying means of allowing subsidies to be enjoyed by all those who deserve them.

Foreign Currency Restrictions Eased

JN1711103791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday introduced new measures further facilitating the transfer of non-Jordanian currency abroad, a move described by banking sources as wise and in the right direction.

The CBJ statement said that the ceiling for annual allocations for people travelling abroad for study, medical treatment, pilgrimage, helping needy families or to cover expenses abroad has been raised to JD [Jordanian dinars] 10,000 worth of foreign currency up from JD 5,000.

Subscriptions to foreign magazines, newspapers and scientific periodicals issued abroad will be JD 1000 worth of foreign currency, up from JD 500 annually, according to the statement which said that the CBJ has authorised the Jordanian banks and financial institutions to issue foreign currency on its behalf.

The statement also announced that the banks and financial institutions are free of restrictions imposed on them by CBJ over the past three years. They can now sell the fixed sums of foreign currency for the above mentioned purposes at their discretion, without referring to the CBJ for approval, the statement said.

The move was seen as a measure to end rumours in Jordan about imminent devaluation of the Jordanian currency in the course of carrying out the economic restructuring programme as agreed on with the International Monetary Fund.

Banking sources said that the rumours adversely affected their banking operations in the past. Less restrictions on bank operations, they said, means more foreign currency available, a move that will boost the value of the Jordanian dinar.

New measures were taken in harmony with the CBJ's policies aimed at gradually removing all restrictions and forms of control over foreign currency in the Kingdom.

Jordan imposed the restrictions in 1988 to stem a currency flight triggered by a dinar devaluation and to safeguard Central Bank foreign currency deposits.

Foreign currency reserves have been boosted by the return of Jordanians from the Gulf and a temporary freeze on repayment of some of Jordan's $8 billion foreign debt.

Syrian Visit Postponed Due to Cabinet Reshuffle

JN2011072591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 91 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—A scheduled visit by a five-member Syrian delegation for coordination talks with Jordanians and Palestinians has been postponed in view of the government change in Jordan, a senior official said Tuesday.

The delegation, which was due to arrive Tuesday for the trilateral consultations ahead of the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, is expected to come early next week, the official said.

"The Syrian delegation delayed its visit until the new government takes over," said the official. "The delegation will meet Jordanian officials as well as delegation members so it makes sense to wait until the new cabinet members are announced."

Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, who is taking over following the resignation of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, is expected to announce his cabinet by Thursday.

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said Monday the Syrian delegation, headed by Zakariya Isma'il, would meet with Jordanian and Palestinian delegates to peace negotiations to discuss strategies and set priorities ahead of bilateral talks. Dr. Abu-Jabir also said Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' would visit Amman within the next several days, but no specific date has yet been set.

The Jordanian delegation, which was restructured Sunday, met Tuesday evening as part of ongoing preparations for the bilateral talks. [passage omitted]

Water Commission To Draft Paper for Peace Talks

JN2011082791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Nov 91 p 1

[By Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that a Jordanian commission, called the Water Commission, has been formed to draft a working paper on the water situation. The working paper will be discussed at the peace conference together with other issues that the Jordanian delegation will present at the negotiating table.

SAWT AL-SHA'B learned that this commission is headed by engineer Mundhir Haddadin and includes 'Abd-al-'Aziz Wishah, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority; 'Umar 'Abdallah, former minister, and others as members.

It was also learned that a delegation representing this commission left for the United States a week ago on a working visit that is connected with the peace conference.

King Receives U.S. Central Command Commander

JN2011185291 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received General Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Central Command, and his delegation at the al-Nadwah Palace this evening. The meeting was attended by Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary; and the U.S. ambassador to Amman.

The visiting general and his military delegation arrived in Amman today on an official several-day visit to Jordan. He was received at Amman airport by Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and by a number of his assistants; the U.S. ambassador; and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

'Freedom of Expression' in Al-Hattab Case Viewed

JN1611135591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 91 pp 2, 16

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "An Opinion About Freedom of Expression and Dissenting Views"]

[Text] Supporting participation in the peace conference, opposing it, or even denouncing it is one of the citizens' legitimate rights. No one in the world can force a citizen to cancel his conscience, eliminate his awareness, or scorn his national, pan-Arab, or humanitarian feelings. However, defending a group of people that has gone astray and hastened to meet with the Israelis and to appear on the enemy television, "which is still an enemy", is regrettable. Being a journalist, a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC], or member of the Palestinian media team in Madrid, is not justification for him or them to deal with the enemy and to normalize media, press, and cultural relations before achieving a just peace that is aspired by all Arab parties, including the Palestinians—a just peace that restores to the Arabs and the Palestinians their usurped rights and territories.

This group has achieved Israel's aspiration and objective of "normalizing" political, economic, trade, cultural, and media relations without Israel's returning anything of what it usurped of Arab and Palestinian rights and territories. Here, we would like to ask this group:

—Why does Shamir insist on resuming the peace talks in the Middle East? Why is he trying to abort the peace process through insisting on this demand with strong intransigence and defiance?

—Moreover, what do the Arabs possess other than the card of normalization and the resolutions of international legitimacy to give to Israel in return for their usurped rights and territories?

—Is the "land for peace principle" not the "land for normalization principle?"

—So, why does this group volunteer to achieve Israel's objective without Israel's giving anything "in return", which the Arabs and Palestinians expect?

When the Jordanian Journalists Association unanimously deleted this "volunteer's" name from its membership and put it on the black list, it did not treat him as if he was a PNC member or a member of the Palestinian media team in Madrid, but as a Jordanian citizen and journalist. This is why it considered him a violator of the will of the Jordanian press family and of the association's bylaws.

When Tawfiq Abu-Bakr apologized to the Jordanian newspaper AL-DUSTUR and its readers, he did so out of his awareness of these facts. The Jordanian Journalists Association did not take any measure against him because he is not a member of it, and not because he apologized to AL-DUSTUR and its readers.

But, having someone defend this disgraceful behavior and its symbols based on the principle of the freedom of expression and of voicing dissenting views, is disinformation itself, or at least lack of knowledge of the dimensions and meanings of the limits of the freedom of expression and of voicing dissenting views.

Defending deviations that cause harm to our national and pan-Arab issues, and serve our enemies, is not a legitimate defense and has nothing to do with democracy, freedom of expression, and the voicing of dissenting views. Otherwise, why should we allow members of our trade unions and popular and political forces, beginning with the associations of physicians and engineers, and ending with the tobacco and cigarette workers union, to establish bridges with the enemy's unions and organizations, to deal with them, and to open dialogue with their members?

Is this freedom of expression and the voicing of dissenting views? Is this how we serve our national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian cause? Is this the way to restore our occupied territories and rights from the grip of the Israeli enemy?

Throughout many years, the Israeli enemy and the U.S. and Western envoys failed to find a Palestinian alternative to the PLO that would accept negotiations with the enemy. This was out of the Palestinians' awareness of the dimensions of the Israeli maneuvering and its suspect conspiratorial objectives. The Palestinians insisted that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Even the Palestinian delegation to Madrid did not deviate from this concept despite U.S., and even Arab pressure on it. In light of this, why should this group volunteer to violate this sound rule or this principled national position and deviate from it? Or is there anything hidden from us—something that is known only to those who are involved in weaving relations that are based on their own interpretation of the freedom of expression and of voicing dissenting views?

Hizballah's Al-Musawi on U.S. Policy, Hostages

NC2011144291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Report on news conference by Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi "today;" place not given]

[Excerpts] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi said that striking at the resistance in return for Jazzin aims at giving Israel the resistance card free of charge.

He told a news conference today: Suppose the resistance is hit, that Israel says it will not withdraw, and that the United States denies it promised the state to enter Jazzin—what will happen then? He answered: The Lebanese negotiator in Madrid or elsewhere will be without a card with which to exert pressure. The resistance card in the hands of the Lebanese negotiator and Syria is the only card they have. If it falls, their principal asset in the negotiations will be lost. The United States only wants to make us lose this asset, and then neither Jazzin nor the border strip will be given back. Al-Musawi added: We believe that the United States prevaricates even as it promises. It wants the situation in Lebanon to reach a real confrontation. This is the United States inciting a clash between the state and the army and the resistance.

On independence day celebrations, al-Musawi said: What is this independence when we have these Israeli aggressions? The state should celebrate independence in the squares of the south where Israel is killing and attacking. The Army should not be turned into a decoration. If it is, its mission would stop and the links between it and the people severed. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi praised relations with Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, and the party. He said: We cooperate on confronting the Israeli enemy and on some domestic issues, constituting a common denominator. There is a real need for understanding and cooperation with all nationalists and Islamists led by Junblatt and the PSP.

Al-Musawi called for differentiating between the hostages issue and prisoners and detainees held by Hizballah and the Israeli enemy. He said: Hizballah has Israeli and Lahdist prisoners. They are our assets for an exchange. This operation continues and it might take a long time. He added: We know nothing about Israeli pilot Ron Arad. He called for closing the file of the hostages, particularly in the media field.

Al-Musawi said he was not surprised at the reports about an Israeli role in the explosion at the American University of Beirut. He said: Both Israel and the Lebanese Forces benefit from this action: The first because this undermines the Lebanese arena; the second because it wants to move the university to the eastern area.

On Conscription, Hostages

NC2111073391 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The situation in the south in light of repeated Zionist attacks, in addition to domestic and regional developments and the issue of hostages, POW's, and detainees, were the subject of the news conference Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi held in the party's general secretariat headquarters [on 20 November]. His eminence described the continuous aggression against the south as unjustified and as being committed only for the sake of aggression. He said the policy of doing things without justification is no longer valid.

His eminence criticized independence celebrations at a time when the Zionist enemy is occupying the land and shelling the south. He said: What independence celebration is this in which the Army is turned into a mere decoration, when its duty is to defend the homeland and the people?

Noting that certain Army elements are prepared to make sacrifices and defend the homeland, al-Musawi blamed the Lebanese regime for lacking the courage to make a decision on the Army's confrontation with the enemy. His eminence described the state's decision to insert the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's operational area as doubtful.

The Hizballah secretary general praised the jihad of the Islamic resistance, emphasizing that resistance is a legitimate duty which leaves no room for bargaining.

Al-Musawi declared his rejection of the state decision on compulsory conscription. He questioned the state's ability to absorb all conscripts, since it does not have the necessary resources. His eminence said:

[Begin recording] In this respect, there is talk about whether the Lebanese state is truly serious about this project or whether there are objectives other than conscription. I question the Lebanese state's seriousness about this project. The reason for my doubts is that the state does not have the ability to absorb these huge numbers; it does not have the capability. This is such an enormous task, which requires huge resources that the state does not own. Therefore, I do not believe that this idea is meant to be implemented. This is in the first place.

In the second place, I have mentioned that any idea or proposal must be presented within the framework of an integrated project. What does the Lebanese regime seek to gain from compulsory conscription and military service? It may be said, for instance, that there is an emergency in Lebanon and that there is continuous Israeli aggression. Therefore, all resources must be mobilized for confronting the enemy. This is our proposal, which is adopted by all the honorable people in this country. We want all the people to be directed toward fighting Israel. This matter does not require obligation.

With my turban I can go and fight the Israeli enemy, if this is the target of the project. But when the issue is [word indistinct], the state has not even linked obligatory conscription with confronting the Israeli enemy. This means that the Lebanese state has other objectives. Indeed, we believe that the underlying objective is that the state is seeking financial sources. It went to New York and obtained no funds, and it went to the Gulf countries and obtained no funds. That is why it wanted to collect protection money from the people and further exhaust them. Perhaps this is what the Lebanese state wants from this project. Therefore, we do not approve of such a project. [end recording]

Responding to a question on the issue of the hostages, his eminence asserted that the person who holds the key to answering the hostage question is UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

While calling for differentiating between the POW's and detainees' files and those of the hostages, he said: It is the Zionist enemy which obstructs the release of the POW's.

The Hizballah secretary general expects the exchange [of prisoners] to take a long time. 'Abbas al-Musawi said:

[Begin recording] Of course, this issue might be delayed [word indistinct] can be accomplished, particularly in view of the aggressive nature of the Israeli enemy, which complicates things all the time. As you noticed at the Madrid conference, certain Arab parties rushed into believing in the possibility of closing the file on the Palestinian issue and rights, at a time when the Israeli enemy was deliberately taking a hard-line approach, putting forth increasing conditions, and escalating its aggression. When the conference was in session in Madrid, Israel was committing aggression against Jerusalem, whether by attacking the Islamic Shari'a Court or by building more settlements in the Golan and other places. This is the nature of the Israeli enemy, a nature which can never be separated from the enemy. Therefore, we must expect the exchange process to take a long time. We have to expect the [word indistinct] to take a long time. All these things are normal and natural in view of the nature of the Israeli enemy. [end recording]

His eminence noted that the Madrid conference only served the enemy who, together with the United States, will use the time to break the unity of the Arab ranks and increase the number of immigrants and settlements.

His Eminence Sayyid al-Musawi explained that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hizballah understand Syria's participation in the negotiations, despite Iran's rejection of the Madrid conference, because Syrian participation in the settlement negotiations falls within the framework of its conflict with the enemy.

His eminence also praised the Tehran conference, saying it was the only voice that opposed the Madrid conference before it was held and sought to eliminate Israel. He added that the conference embraced all the oppressed and revolutionaries—Islamists, nationalists, and pan-Arabists—the Soviet Union having been eliminated.

The Hizballah secretary general concluded: There is no other option but to have a common understanding and cooperate to confront the enemy and those who promote U.S. schemes.

Fadlallah Urges Closing Hostage File 'Forever'

NC2111104191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Regarding the hostage issue, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has expressed the conviction that it would be in everyone's interest if the hostages file is closed indefinitely and forever.

In a statement to the BBC, Fadlallah said that closing this file could achieve enormous, positive results concerning interpolitical relations.

President: Resistance in South Must Continue

LD2111094691 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Nov 91 p 2

[Unattributed interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] In a few days there will be more than one anniversary. We will have the anniversary of independence, the anniversary of your election, and the anniversary of President Rene Mu'awwad's assassination. What do these occasions suggest to you?

[Al-Hirawi] As 22 November approaches, happy as we are about the independence anniversary, we cannot but remember Lebanon's tragedy, with its long wait before the Chamber of Deputies could meet and elect a president. [passage omitted]

Yes, the independence anniversary finds us with security restored in a large part of Lebanese territory, but the bloodshed continues in our precious South. Lebanon cannot regain its health as long as the South remains occupied. That is why we must all work for the South, both at the peace conference, in which we have participated and for which we have prepared at the highest level, and through the presence of half the Lebanese Army in the South. True, the Army does not have the necessary equipment or numbers to confront the Israeli enemy, but the soldiers must at least resist, even with their bare hands, lest it be said, as in the past, that the Israelis pass in front of the Lebanese Army but the latter just ignores them. The orders are clear: If the Lebanese Army is fired on, it must retaliate with its available modest resources and should work with the people of the South to ensure that they remain steadfast on their land. Lebanon has now managed to follow the path of peace only because the people who remained in it stood fast, despite everything. Their steadfastness on the ground prevented Lebanon's demise. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Speaking of indpendence anniversary celebrations, Minister Walid Junblatt criticized the holding of a military parade. The Phalangist Party has also complained that Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil is not among those to be honored on the occasion. Any comment?

[Al-Hirawi] In a speech in 'Alayh, Walid repeated that he did not want the Lebanese flag, as though the flag belonged to one individual or party. The Lebanese flag belongs to the Lebanese state. Whether you are a supporter or an oppositionist, it is still your country's flag. Whoever renounces the flag in fact renounces his homeland. I am not saying that Walid is renouncing his homeland. My understanding of opposition is that, under our democratic system, everyone has a right to oppose and to use any means to express such opposition, that is, in the press or on the radio. When it comes to talk of armed opposition, however, then allow me—Walid and the other political leaders whom we respect—to say that there will be no armed opposition after today.

As regards the Phalangist Party's objection, the tradition in Lebanon since 1943 has been to honor the figures who participated in the 1943 battle for independence. Of those only 'Adil 'Usayran is still alive. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Let us now move on to the question of the South. Is it true that the United States has made an offer to Lebanon to recover Jazzin in return for a suspension of the resistance against the Israeli occupation?

[Al-Hirawi] When I was in New York John Kelly discussed that with me. He was instructed by President Bush to follow the matter up with us since, unlike the rest of our Arab brothers, we were unable to meet with Secretary Baker several times and for several hours. I said that Jazzin was not part of the border strip issue and that the Israelis and the Lahd group should be told to withdraw, because we were not talking to the Israelis. The Americans were talking to them. We were told then that the state should maintain security in the South, meaning that the resistance should stop. I did not accept that, and I said that as long as there was a single Israeli on our territory I could not prevent any Lebanese from resisting the Israeli occupation. However, I promised—in the presence of Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, who agreed with me on that promise—that once Resolution 425 is implemented, in practice and not in words, the Lebanese state would pledge, through its armed forces, that not a single shot would be fired from Lebanese territory in the direction of the international borders between us and Israel. That promise was repeated by the foreign minister in his Madrid speech and in his talks with the Madrid conference sponsors. But to say, stop this and stop that—well, nobody can say, I accept submission and I accept occupation and will not resist the occupation. What state would accept occupation? When France was occupied by the Germans, did not everyone resist? Now that the German forces have left France, old grudges have been forgotten.

[AL-HAYAH] There is some contradiction there. The state is defending the resistance, which in fact has no connection with the state. In practice there is strong resistance against regional parties that are present on Lebanese territory. Lebanon can neither steer nor control that resistance.

[Al-Hirawi] Such contradiction is perhaps in the minds of others who are trying to attribute it to the state. Perhaps they exploit some points which they regard as points of weakness in the state. The state does not organize the resistance. Resistance is always secret, without anyone knowing who runs it and who is responsible for it. So why should I ask a Lebanese official to disclose his secrets? When the present government went to the Chamber of Deputies for a vote of confidence, in its statement to the Chamber it expressed appreciation for the resistance in the South. Some incidents unrelated to the resistance may occur in the South, but as long as the territory is occupied, nobody can deny the Lebanese people resistance against the Israeli occupation. If Israel were to announce that it agrees to implement Resolution 425, the Lebanese state could then request a halt to the resistance.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you assess U.S.-Lebanese relations, particularly in view of the U.S. reply to the requests submitted by the Lebanese delegation during its meeting with President George Bush in New York?

[Al-Hirawi] The U.S. reply was positive and clear and we received a written undertaking that the U.S. Government would work hard for the implementation of Resolution 425. As for the other requests, the U.S. side emphasized that as long as there were hostages held on Lebanese territory the U.S. Administration could not lift the embargo imposed on Lebanon at various levels without provoking the U.S. public and Congress.

Relations between Lebanon and the United States are based on frankness. The claim that the ban on Middle East Airlines (the Lebanese airline) flights to the United States would continue as long as Beirut airport remained under the Syrian forces' control is unfounded. President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly asked me to prepare the Lebanese Army to take full control of all Lebanese areas, because the Syrian forces want to leave. My reply has always been that the Lebanese Army was ready as far as numbers were concerned, but not as far as equipment, because of the U.S. embargo on weapons sales to Lebanon and a similar French ban which has now been lifted in principle and is supposed to be lifted in practice.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there anything new regarding the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the South to replace the UN forces?

[Al-Hirawi] There is nothing new. Such a step may not even be in our interest now, particularly since the situation in the South deteriorated after the Madrid peace conference.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you optimistic in your heart that the Middle East solution will not be to Lebanon's detriment?

[Al-Hirawi] I believe, and I am confident, that a Middle East settlement can only be in Lebanon's interest.

[AL-HAYAH] Will there be no Syrian-Israeli bargaining over the South?

[Al-Hirawi] There will be no bargaining at all over a single inch of territory or a single drop of water.

[AL-HAYAH] Will there be no permanent zones of influence for Syria and Israel in Lebanon?

[Al-Hirawi] The Lebanese people accept no permanent influence for anyone. The al-Ta'if agreement is clear and frank and it leads to the fulfillment of the aspirations of every Lebanese citizen.

[AL-HAYAH] Whatever happened to the international fund for aid to Lebanon? Was its creation not supposed to be officially announced this month?

[Al-Hirawi] Lebanon has made considerable efforts in this connection and has received good promises from all Arab and international groups, but the promises faltered as a result of the Gulf war. What is hampering the creation of that fund now? I do not know. It could be due to the attitude of some Western states such as Japan or others. I hope to have a chance to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to pursue the matter. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] How important to Lebanon is the Francophone summit, and how do you view relations with France since your latest visit to Paris?

[Al-Hirawi] Since the restoration of the Lebanese state's activities and the reunification of the people and the land, the state has been eager to attend any international or regional conference of which Lebanon is a member. [passage omitted]

As for my recent visit to France, it dispersed many clouds. You must certainly have been aware of the effects of that visit. Our relations with the French were recently limited to formalities, but my 45-minute private meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand was sufficient to dispel all the misconceptions and to eliminate all the tension toward us which existed in [French] ministries and government departments. The results of the visit are beginning to appear on the ground as various French delegations visit Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What is the truth about differences within the government? Is it true that you have told ministers that "whoever does not like it can leave," and, if so, why?

[Al-Hirawi] That is a valid question, and I want to answer it most clearly. First, let me say that there is no governing "troika." Our constitution is clear and the al-Ta'if agreement is clear and, whether people like it or not, it is our road to salvation. It was approved by the nation's deputies at the time—62 of them representing all groups. It can be said that the agreement did not suit some people's aspirations, but it is the common denominator. The talk of conflict within the government is in fact a healthy sign. It is also evidence that agreement can frequently be reached among all the groups representing the institutions, in the interest of the Lebanese state. If at some point there is a conflict over a bill or certain actions, that is a sign of health, democracy, and freedom. Frequently some bills prepared by the cabinet are rejected by the Chamber of Deputies. That is the Chamber's right. [passage omitted] With due respect to freedom of the press, I say that the press reports are very tendentious, because we have said verbatim that any issue discussed in the cabinet must result in agreement among the parties once all the views have been heard; and once a decision has been made, those opposed to it must abide by the majority view and must not turn to the media with insulting outcries. Hence the statement that whoever does not accept the decision on which a vote has been taken and persists with his opposition should resign and express that opposition outside the government. We have had enough of fishing in troubled waters. I want the discussions to take place within the framework of Lebanese institutions, not outside it.

[AL-HAYAH] Is Syrian withdrawal still on course for September 1992?

[Al-Hirawi] That is what the al-Ta'if agreement says, and I have to prepare myself for it. I have already said that we have enough people, but we lack equipment. Most regrettably, so far we have received nothing. All I want is to strengthen the Army, not to wage war on anyone, either near or far.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there no link between withdrawal and the peace conference?

[Al-Hirawi] None at all. The al-Ta'if agreement is clear on that score. Withdrawal will first take place as far as western al-Biqa'. Then the final withdrawal may be linked to the results of the peace conference. If the peace conference takes its course and produces the desired results, then all we have to do is to preserve our own forces to enable them to impose the state's sovereignty.

[AL-HAYAH] What about elections? Will they take place before or after the withdrawal?

[Al-Hirawi] We must be clear and frank when we talk about elections. In several centers we no longer have electoral registers because they have been burned. That is why the cabinet has appointed 240 employees and placed them at the disposal of the personal status directorate to reproduce these registers statistically. Then a bill will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies on the distribution of constituencies, and then an election date will be announced. [passage omitted]

On Water Issue, Madrid Talks

NC2111082191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that he will continue the march of unification without bloodshed, emphasizing that the government has covered 90 percent of the peace march.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR Chief Editor Talal Salman, President al-Hirawi referred to the need collect the small arms possessed by citizens as soon as possible.

President al-Hirawi said that Lebanon will not give its water or land to anyone. He added he is confident that peace will prevail in Lebanon and the region.

President al-Hirawi denied that the water issue was raised in Madrid or during his meeting with President George Bush. He stressed that the talks in Madrid centered on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. Al-Hirawi said: What concerns us regarding Resolution 242 is the Palestinian presence on our land. Lebanon, with its small amount of territory, does not accept the settlement of half a million Palestinian refugees on its land. He expressed the hope that Resolution 425 will be implemented with U.S. guarantees.

Answering a question on reconciliation among government leaders, al-Hirawi said: I apply the al-Ta'if accord verbatim. Those who are accusing government leaders of committing excesses, let them come forward and tell me where and how the president has exceeded his authority. He added: There is no troika, but each of the three leaders [president, prime minister, and speaker] has his prerogatives.

UN Claims SLA Shot Girl at Close Range

TA2011144591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that an investigation by UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters has revealed that the 10-year-old girl who was killed last night was shot with 30 rounds from a Kalashnikov rifle fired at short range. Residents of the village claimed that SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers shot at the girl when she ran after them.

Citing sources in Tyre, a REUTER correspondent says that SLA soldiers took the girl's father, uncle, and two brothers into the security zone for investigation. The sources claim that the SLA soldiers had placed explosive charges inside the house, and when the women returned to the house, it exploded.

The SLA headquarters denied outright the UNIFIL and residents' version. The SLA said the houses in the village of Majdal Silm were blown up only after the inhabitants were evacuated from them.

SLA Blames 'Terrorists'

TA2011180391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] It has been learned from the SLA [South Lebanese Army] headquarters that terrorists who arrived at the village of Majdal Silm after the departure of SLA troops were the ones who killed the 10-year-old girl and gravely wounded her sisters and mother. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told by General Lahd's headquarters that a debriefing of the SLA troops who raided the village last night revealed that the soldiers had shot no one, and that they had meticulously evacuated houses of their residents prior to blowing up the houses. [passage omitted]

Birri Urges General Strike

NC2011135891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri called for a general strike in the south to protest the massacre perpetrated by the occupation forces and to demand that the Army remains in the area of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] and expand its area of deployment there after having deployed in Tayr Dibbah town.

Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, Birri said that this massacre was committed only 150 meters from UNIFIL positions. He stressed the need to expand the Army's area of deployment in the UNIFIL area. He also called on the absent government to have the courage for once to demand a Security Council meeting to look into this crime and to demand the implementation of Resolution 425 without waiting for the outcome of the international conference.

Israeli Overnight Shelling, Overflights Reported

NC2111083591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] According to the latest security reports from the south, several areas adjacent to the occupied border strip were subjected to concentrated bombardment last night. A number of shells landed on the townships of Haris, Kafra, Yatar, Haddathah, Bra'shit, and ridges of Iqlim al-Tuffah. Israeli warplanes also flew over al- Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and east of Sidon last night.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces sent motorized units to areas inside the occupied border strip.

Two Injured by Blast

NC2111115291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Two civilians were seriously wounded today when an explosive device went off near the village of (Khawnah) in the eastern sector of the security strip. An

Israeli military source said that anti-Israeli fighters detonated the remote-controlled device, thinking that the two civilians belonged to the South Lebanese Army.

The Israeli forces this morning used heavy-caliber machine guns on the outskirts of Kafr al-Rumman, Kafr Tibnit, al-Nabatiyah al- Fawqa, and the al-Litani river area from positions in hills opposite.

At noon today Israeli warplanes flew low altitude sorties over the southern areas.

UK Envoy Delivers Major's Message to al-Hirawi

NC2011123891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] British Ambassador David Tathan today denied any knowledge of an imminent visit to Lebanon by the British foreign secretary. He was speaking after delivering a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi from British Prime Minister John Major, thanking him for the Lebanese Government's efforts to release Terry Waite and the other British hostages. Major affirmed that the British Government is interested in the release of all hostages held unjustly in this part of the world.

Man Charged With American University Bombing

NC2111090291 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Military Investigation Magistrate Dr. As'ad Diyab, in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the law issued in 1958, has issued a remand order against Jihad al-Khalil on charges of blowing up the College Hall building at the American University of Beirut.

Jihad has been placed under intensified custody in solitary confinement, for fear that the people who recruited him might assassinate him to destroy evidence of the crime.

Al-Asad Accepts People's Assembly's Nomination

JN2011173391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] At 1320 today President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, and members of the Assembly bureau. Qaddurah handed the president the decision the People's Assembly unanimously adopted approving the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command's decision to nominate his excellency to a new constitutional term. Qaddurah expressed the happiness and pride of the People's Assembly members for this decision which reflects the will and loyalty of the sons of our people for their leader and president, and their determination to press ahead with the march of construction and liberation under his wise and courageous leadership.

The president accepted the nomination decision thankfully, and expressed his pride in the unanimous confidence of the assembly and that of the people's loyal sons, a confidence which represents a major asset of the Corrective Movement, the revolution's path, and Syria's policy on all levels.

National Front Statement on Upcoming Referendum

JN1911131591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 Nov (SANA)—The National Progressive Front Central Command issued a statement today on the occasion of the referendum on a new constitutional presidential term, in which it said: These days, our country is passing through a distinguished and vital period of popular activities, waiting for the second day of January when citizens will go to the polls and decide, of their own free will, the future of the country for the next seven years.

The statement added that the next referendum will be a historic one because it will be the day when the people voice their clear-cut word, the day when we declare our firm commitment to the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and our solid belief that leader al-Asad's personality represents the ambitions and aspirations of our people in consolidating their free will and stressing the independence of our national and pan-Arab decisions.

The statement went on to say: When we say yes to leader al-Asad, we say yes to all sublime meanings and noble values; we say yes to peace based on justice, a comprehensive peace based on restoration of the occupied Arab territories; we say yes to the political struggle which is no less important in its complexities and possibilities than the armed struggle.

The Central Command's statement added that President al-Asad is not merely a unique patriotic leader, but at the same time he is a great pan-Arab leader and a prominent international leader, whose efficiency, shrewdness, skill, and talent in making sound political decisions which he adopts through correct vision, thoughtful consideration, and sincere faith, have been admitted by the entire world.

Addressing the masses of our great people, the Central Command said: You will say your decisive word on the great referendum day, which represents your free will. You will declare your loyalty for leader al-Asad to the whole world, with a new emphasis on the genuine Arab values you possess, and the pan-Arab affiliation which has become an inseparable part of your history, and which represents your constant backing for the historic and extraordinary leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar': Next Round of Talks in Washington

JN2011185691 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that the second round of the second phase of the Madrid peace conference will be held in Washington and then continue in Moscow or a European capital, to be chosen by the delegations that will take part in these talks.

The Saudi paper AL-YAWM reported these statements by the Syrian foreign minister. The Syrian minister, however, did not specify a date for that phase of the negotiations.

An Arab diplomatic source in Cairo has confirmed that agreement has been reached by the concerned parties to resume these negotiations before the end of November in Washington. The source added that the United States will officially announce that agreement in the next few days.

Talas Speaks on Peace, Israeli Policy

JN1711202991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of militant President Hafiz al-Asad and as part of our Armed Forces' celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, a new class of the War College graduated today. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, deputized for the president. [passage omitted]

General Mustafa Talas, representative of the commander-in-chief, delivered a speech on the occasion. He started by conveying to the graduates leader al-Asad's greetings and best wishes for success in fulfilling their national and pan-Arab tasks, which they have been given within the ranks of our valiant Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

He said: Syria of the Corrective Movement, which has spared no effort to achieve strong Arab solidarity, will continue its efforts to bring about a unified pan-Arab position that can deal with and direct the events as

dictated by the Arab nation's supreme interests, especially those related to the concept of the just and comprehensive peace in the region—a concept Syria calls for. For the sake of that concept, Syria went to Madrid to attend the peace conference and confirm to the entire world the sincerity of its intentions and its genuine interest in a peace that would restore usurped rights to their rightful owners. These rights are guaranteed by the resolutions of international legitimacy, represented by Resolutions 242 and 338 which all countries of the world have approved.

The general also talked about Israel's intransigence and rejection of peace, and its attempts to obstruct international efforts to establish peace. He referred to the procrastination of Israel's rulers, as demonstrated by enemy Prime Minister Shamir's speech, which confirmed their hostility toward peace and exposed their evil attempts to bypass and void the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The general explained Israel's objectives behind its endeavor to impose its policy on the Arab delegations during the negotiations. Israeli policy, he said, is aimed at dealing separately with every side so as to fragment the Arab ranks and impose partial solutions that do not help achieve the desired peace and only serve Israel's aggressive interests. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Receives Libyan Letter on Lockerbie

JN2011153591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' received Libyan Ambassador to Syria Humayyid Jallud this morning. He received a letter from the Libyan foreign minister through the ambassador on a possible military action against fraternal Libya because of the Pan Am incident over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. They also reviewed the diplomatic contacts the Syrian Government held to tackle this issue through legal and judicial means.

The foreign minister told the Libyan ambassador of Syria's deep concern and objection to any military action against fraternal Libya. They agreed on the need to resort to law and justice in order for justice to follow its normal course, and punish whoever is proven guilty of this incident.

Syria expressed its deep concern about possible military action against Libya to the U.S. Administration. Syria cautioned against the serious complications such acts could bring about at a time when Arab and international efforts are being exerted to attain a just and comprehensive peace, and to eliminate the elements of instability in the region. Syria also informed the U.S. Administration of the need to resort to law and justice, since this method is easily accessible in international norms. Also, Libya did not hesitate to declare that it accepts resorting to justice in order to resolve this issue.

Afghanistan

USSR Confirms Military Advisers Departing

BK2011160791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1539 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Kabul, Nov 20 (AFP)—Soviet advisors have begun leaving Afghanistan in a phased withdrawal of military experts to be completed by the year-end, a Soviet Embassy spokesman said here Wednesday.

The spokesman confirmed reports that Moscow had begun recalling its missile experts from war-torn Afghanistan, describing those leaving as "advisors."

"Even today many left," said the spokesman in comments several hours after Pakistan-based mojahedin resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani announced that a recall of the experts had begun in accordance with a decision taken at talks between the rebels and Soviet leaders in Moscow last week.

"Only a restricted number of the advisors are now left and the remaining personnel would be recalled step by step," the spokesman told AFP.

Rabbani said in Pakistan that Moscow began pulling out the military personnel operating Scud missiles against the mojahedin in line with an agreement reached durng the November 11-15 talks.

The Soviets had left behind the advisors to operate and train the Afghan Army in launching the surface-to-surface Scud missiles after the February 1989 pullout of 115,000 soldiers from Afghanistan under a United Nations-brokered accord.

"The withdrawal is on the basis of the talks held earlier between the Soviet Union and United States in Moscow," the spokesman said, referring to a September 13 Moscow-Washington decision to terminate arms supplies by January 1 to the warring sides in the Afghan conflict.

"In the nearest future we (will) completely withdraw," he said, adding that all the experts would have left by the year-end.

There were some 300 Soviet military advisors left behind after the 1989 pullout and a small group of them had been in service operating long-range Scuds from three silos here since then, Afghan military officials said.

At least five Soviet Aeroflot flights landed in Kabul Wednesday, and witnesses said they saw Soviet personnel boarding two of them carrying farewell bouquets.

An Afghan Government spokesman was non-commital on the recall.

He reacted angrily, saying that the pullout of Soviet experts would not be felt as the local Army was fully trained to handle the Scuds.

"We hope not to use these weapons against the opposition (mojahedin), but our soldiers can use the Scuds accurately as and when they have to," the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Discusses Implementing Moscow Agreement

BK2011121991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] A joint Afghan mojahedin-Soviet commission to be set up within a month as a result of the recent Moscow talks to oversee implementation of their (?options) is to hold its first meeting in Pakistan. This was stated by the leader of mojahedin delegation to Moscow talks, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, at a news conference in Islamabad this morning.

He pointed out that joint statement issued at the end of Moscow talks stipulates, among other things, the transfer of power from the puppet Kabul regime to a transitional Islamic government to hold general elections in Afghanistan within two years with the cooperation of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and UNO [UN Organization].

In reply to a question, Prof. Rabbani made it clear that no one from the puppet Kabul regime—present or former ones—would be included in the interim Islamic Afghan Government. Replying to another question, he said mojahedin, in token of their desire for peace, agreed to release a batch of Soviet prisoners of war by 1 January 1992.

Mojahedin, Russian Leaders Comment

LD1611141791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Members of the Afghan mojahedin and the Soviet Union delegations interviewed by our correspondent at the end of their talks in Moscow last night discussed their view of their talks. We draw your attention to a report sent by our correspondent in Moscow:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the end of the talks, Mr. Rabbani, speaking at a news conference on the policy of the future Afghan government, called for friendly relations between Kabul and other international states. He said: Today the initial step has been taken toward a new move, and it is hoped that the reconstruction of the country will start soon. Announcing that the first group of Russian POW's will soon be released, Mr. Rabbani pointed out: We wish to have friendly relations with the Soviet Union based on mutual interests.

At the end of the discussions and during the final visit by the Afghan mojahedin to the Russian Parliament in Moscow, Rutskoy, the deputy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in declaring the Soviet Government's cooperation with the interim Afghan government, condemned his predecessors' actions and emphasized that arms supplies to Afghanistan will soon be ended. He said: In

the near future a conference will be held with the participation of the four states of the Soviet Union, Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a future government and its political structure.

Mr. Rutskoy, announcing that the Soviet authorities are most satisfied with the settlement of the Afghan problem, announced: The necessary facilities will be provided for the release of mojahedin POW's.

Another Afghan mojahedin leader, Mr. Mortazavi, termed the signing of the statement as an important event in resolving the Afghan issue. He said: After 10 years of death and bloodshed, a bright horizon can be seen in the distance. He added: The new transitional government will start work under the supervision of the (?UN, secretary general, and its composition will soon be announced.

India

Foreign Minister Discusses Moscow Talks

BK1911150091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] A multidisciplinary delegation will visit Moscow next month to discuss arrangements for cooperation in different areas with both the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. This was stated by the minister of external affairs, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, in New Delhi today.

Speaking to newsmen about his five-day visit to the Soviet Union, Mr. Solanki said his discussions at all levels were marked by warmth and understanding. There is sincere desire on the part of the Soviet and Russian leadership to seek speedy and satisfactory solutions to some of the problems that have recently cropped up in India-Soviet relations because of the structural changes taking place in the Soviet Union.

Replying to questions, Mr. Solanki said that he conveyed India's unhappiness to the Soviet Union over its support in the United Nations to Pakistan's resolutions on nuclear-weapons-free South Asia. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, who was also present, said the Soviet parties were told that Pakistan resolutions were basically a propaganda campaign carried out year after year in the General Assembly.

Mr. Solanki said the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Boris Pankin, explained that Moscow has taken the nuclear disarmament program in conjunction with the United States. It was in line with this policy that it decided to support anything which helps develop nuclear-weapons-free areas. Mr. Pankin assured that the Soviet decision in no way diminishes its close relationship with India.

Spokesman Denies Sale of Reactor to Iran

BK2011162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] India today categorically affirmed that there were no discussions on the sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran during the visit of the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, to Tehran. In reply to a question, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that Mr. Solanki's talks covered in detail areas of economic cooperation with Iran. The spokesman, however, said there were discussions earlier on the sale of a nuclear reactor but these were at a preliminary stage and form part of the consultations.

On the visit of the U.S. undersecretary of state for international security affairs, Mr. Bartholomew, to New Delhi tomorrow, the spokesman said India is looking forward to his arrival and will have an exchange of views with him. The spokesman said the United States is among the most friendly nations and New Delhi will approach the dialogue with an open mind.

Parliamentarians Call for Sale

BK2011163891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 20 (AFP)—Indian MPs urged the government Wednesday to resist U.S. pressure and go ahead with the controversial sale of a nuclear research reactor to Iran.

Suresh Kalmadi of the ruling Congress (I) Party raised the issue in parliament's upper house, saying exports of nuclear reactors should not be allowed to be a monopoly of the industrialised world.

"In no case should the government buckle under U.S. pressure," Kalmadi said in a brief statement supported by colleagues and MPs from the opposition Janata Dal (People's Party).

Kalmadi said it was "strange" that Washington was trying to dissuade India from exporting the reactor after having sold one to Tehran itself.

The matter came up in parliament on the opening day of its month-long winter session, a day before U.S. Undersecretary of State for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew was due to begin a visit here.

New Delhi's offer to sell the 10-megawatt nuclear reactor to Tehran is expected to figure high in his talks here which follow expressions of concern by the United States at the Indo-Iranian deal, reportedly still under negotiation.

India's top nuclear scientist, P.K. Iyengar, told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in remarks published Tuesday that the proposed sale was in no way a secret deal and would be under international safeguards.

"Perhaps the Western countries do not want us to get into high technology exports ... The Americans had already supplied a five-megawatt reactor to Iran which is still working," Iyengar, chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, said.

"Our offer to Iran is exactly like the nuclear reactors set up by Argentina in Algeria and Peru and the recent offer it has made to Turkey... Perhaps only the white man has the right to sell nuclear reactors," Iyengar said.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS reported Wednesday that Iran was also keen to import a 220-megawatt pressurised heavy water reactor used in power generation which India has made locally.

Washington has expressed fears at the possibility that Iran, which recently called for Islamic countries to arm themselves with nuclear weapons to counter Israel's capability, would "misuse" civilian nuclear materials.

New Delhi says the reactor is designed for "peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

Indian officials have said in the past that the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Bombay had developed small reactors which it could sell to Third World countries planning to launch basic research programmes, but denied they could be put to military use.

India, which is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, in 1974 carried out an underground nuclear test. It claims its atomic programme is entirely geared towards generating electricity.

Government Reiterates Support for Palestinians

BK2011042491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] India has assured its continued and unstinted support to the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people.

In a message to the PLO chairman, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the prime minister has expressed the hope that the process of dialogue on West Asia problems will culminate in the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed gratitude that the Palestinian issue is receiving the attention of all concerned. The message in connection with the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people to be observed on the 29th of this month.

Assembly Election Results Finalized

BK2111045391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Congress-I has won the Vaishali assembly seat in Bihar. Its candidate Mr. Hemant Shahi defeated his nearest Janata Dal rival, Mr. Rajkishor Singh, by over 10,000 votes.

With this, results of all the 56 assembly seats for which by-elections were held in 14 states are now available. The latest party position is: Congress-I 19; BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], 15; Janata Dal, nine; Samajwadi Janata Party, five; Jharkhand Mukti Morch, two; CPI [Communist Party of India], one; and independents and others, five. Repolling in 310 polling booths in Gaya, Madhepura, and Barh Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar takes place tomorrow.

Troops Deployed in Punjab Against Militants

BK2111035091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] In Punjab, the deployment of Army in the sensitive areas of the state has started. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, this followed a request by the state government with a view to beef up the security in view of the recent spurt in militant activities. He said that the Army will now be available for assistance to the civil administration at a short notice.

Meanwhile, the state government has declared the districts of Jullundur, Kapurthala, and Hoshiarpur as disturbed areas in addition to the nine already so declared. With this, the whole of Punjab state has now been brought under the purview of the Disturbed Areas Act. The act empowers the security forces, including the Army and paramilitary forces, to carry out search, raid, or arrest any suspected person without a warrant.

Report Notes 1991 Jammu-Kashmir Arrests, Killings

BK2111151491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Eight hundred and forty one Pak [Pakistan]-trained militants were arrested by the security forces during the first 10 months this year in Jammu and Kashmir. They were among the 4,350 arrests made in the valley apart from 480 surrenders.

A large number of arms and ammunition, including 1,168 AK-47 and AK-56 rifles, 73 machine guns, and over 1,000 hand grenades were also recovered. This was revealed during a high-level official review of the situation in Kashmir in New Delhi today.

Militants made about 2,000 attacks on security forces and civilians, killing 652 persons, including 165 security personnel. Five hundred and six militants were killed during the period.

Finance Minister Vows Economic Liberalization

BK2011094891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The government will further liberalize the economy and trade policy to become a competitive trade partner in the international market. Addressing the opening session of the Indo-U.S. joint business council meeting in New Delhi today, the finance minister said

the government proposes to remove foreign exchange regulations to make the rupee freely convertible.

Reiterating the government's stand that economic and trade reforms are irrevocable, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that India is now resolved to integrate its economy to the world economy. He said the tariff structure has remained high and efforts will be made to cut it down.

Iran

Official Links Hostage Release to Israeli Actions

LD2011210191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's envoy to the United Nations, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, expressed optimism that all Western hostages and Muslim prisoners in the occupied Palestine will be freed by the end of this year. In an interview with the American CNN network, Mr. Kharrazi said: This issue has been anticipated in the primary plan of the UN secretary general for the release of hostages. He stressed that the Iran will continue its cooperation with the UN chief to free all hostages and prisoners.

Dr. Kharrazi stated that the next step for the release of hostages is that the Zionist regime must take action to free the imprisoned Muslims. He added: The Zionist regime must take a similar measure on the basis of the UN secretary general's plan.

The UN secretary general, too, said yesterday that the next step for the release of all hostages is with the Qods occupying regime taking measures to free a group of the jailed Muslims.

Israeli Attempts To 'Sabotage' Peace Talks Viewed

LD2111145191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1059 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Station "political commentary"]

[Excerpts] Israel has clearly stated that it will continue its aggressive activities and attacks on villages in southern Lebanon. This stance of the Zionist regime was announced by Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the northern Israel region. [passage omitted]

The military commander of the northern Israel region also announced that as long as Hezbollah exists, and as long as it creates obstacles and bottlenecks in the way of Israeli activities in southern Lebanon, the Zionist regime would continue its military and vengeful operations in that area.

The Lebanese Government decided to make a complaint to the Security Council following the hostage-taking and massacre of civilians, and with the stepping up of the acts of aggression by the Zionist regime over the past month.

As the land and air attacks of the Zionist regime on residential areas in southern Lebanon coincided with the Madrid peace talks, some political analysts believe that Israel intends to exert direct pressure on the Lebanese Government, and indirect pressure on the Syrian Government, in order to gain more concessions from them in the direct and bilateral talks. Also, by attacking villages and bombarding near and far areas in southern Lebanon—which would naturally bring a reaction from Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim and revolutionary forces—Israel is trying to make the region unsafe, and then, under the pretext that the northern borders of occupied Palestine were unsafe, shirk from implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. This resolution is the main topic of talks between Lebanon and the Zionist regime.

Other political analysts believe that the Zionist regime's hostage-taking and massacre of civilians yesterday was Israel's reaction to the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. Those analysts believe that Israel has constantly striven to justify many of its crimes to Western public opinion by using the Western hostages as an excuse, and turn it into an obstacle in the way of the normalization of relations between the West and Muslim countries. For that reason, Israel has created obstacles in their paths by embarking on certain acts of aggression whenever there have been humanitarian efforts to secure the release of the hostages.

At present, with the prospect of the case of the Western hostages in Lebanon coming to a final close, the rulers of the Zionist regime are attempting, by means of committing moving crimes and hurting the feelings of the people of Lebanon, to sabotage the present optimistic trend. In any case, silence in the face of acts violating international principles and the basic rights of countries cannot help the establishment of security in the region. Therefore the UN Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining global peace and security, and also the world's free countries, should show a decisive reaction to the acts of aggression by the Zionist regime, and put an end to the problems of the innocent people of southern Lebanon.

Larijani Discusses U.S. Goals at Madrid Talks

LD0811100991 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 91

["Political Roundtable" program with Foreign Ministry adviser Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, moderated by unidentified correspondent]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Larijani, the main architect of the Madrid conference was America. Before the conference was held, the issue was analyzed as such: America was trying to strengthen its positions in the so-called new world order by convening the conference; that is to create a unipolar system led by America. Now that the conference has ended, how successful do you think America has been in that regard?

[Larijani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In order to answer that question it is necessary to pay more precise attention to U.S. policies regarding the Middle East region.

The Americans have defined a number of interests for themselves and they wish to guarantee, secure, and expand those interests. Any of those three wishes—to guarantee, to secure, and to expand—require certain efforts. It can be asked what kind of interests have the Americans defined for themselves in the region?

The most important interests that the Americans defined for themselves, in my opinion, concern the issue of having control over the region's very rich resources; having access to the region's relatively vast market; and domination over strategically significant positions, whether it be the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, or the Dardanelles in the Bosphoros. Those are vast, strategically significant positions. The use of these levers play a role in international competition. It can be said that these are the most important interests the Americans defined for themselves in the region.

Now what should they do to guarantee those interests? The American politicians' concept of guaranteeing those interests is always based on two pillars. One is the creation of a suitable political, social, and economic structure; and secondly, parallel to that, is to maintain a strong military presence. They did that in Europe. They defined a number of interests there. They had to create NATO with a U.S. military presence in it to guarantee those interests. They did the same in the Pacific and now they want to do the same in the Middle East, that is, to maintain a strong and calculated presence. This has already begun. Now a suitable political, social, and economic structure can be created.

In my opinion the Madrid session and a major part of all U.S. activities to do with the issue of Palestine is connected to those interests. Even the Jews are going to be sacrificed for those interests in the long term. It cannot remain that the Americans always support them [Israelis]. The Israelis now have no sense and their racist qualities have made them a plaything of desires for which they will be sacrificed. That case has been repeated many times in history. [passage omitted]

The Americans wish to begin their world domination from the Middle East region. Nowhere else can this be seen in that context. The Americans are descending in Europe, they have major problems in the Pacific. Therefore they have chosen the Middle East as a springboard for their policies.

[Correspondent] For what reason? Is it because of the resources; or other reasons?

[Larijani] There are different reasons. Perhaps it could be said that they have found a long term background here; because the plug of their influence in Europe has been pulled out. They are facing regional competitors in the Pacific. Therefore, they have chosen the Middle East. I think, of course, that they are making a mistake. The revival of Islamic ideology in the Middle East is a major obstacle to their activities. But now they have made that move according to their calculations. They had a corrupt regime like the one of Saddam—the invasion of Kuwait took place; and those were the issues which made the Americans to come to the conclusion that the Middle East can be a starting point for their world domination.

The Madrid session should be analyzed, first of all, on the basis of those guarantee aims, and then on the basis of securing and expanding U.S. policies.

I believe that so far they have achieved some short term results in that regard. One of the things that they should do to secure their interests is to create a regional security policy; the so-called U.S. security umbrella. Israel would play a major role. Israel, a number of the Persian Gulf states, and Turkey would be the three pillars of the security umbrella that America should create side by side with its military presence.

The important objective that America is working on now, after the Madrid conference, is to integrate Israel into the region. Hitherto, Israel has been isolated in the region. Baker announced during a news conference after the first round of the Madrid session that Arab countries, especially the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, promised the United States that they would soon begin economic relations with Israel. Israel is going to participate in regional cooperation. This is what they are after. Whether they give a bit of land to the Palestinians or not, or take land from the Jews and give it to Syria or others, these are all secondary issues for the United States. The primary issue is this: Israel is going to enter the Middle East region as one of the dominant American security sources. This is what it [the United States] does not have right now. I believe the issues of Madrid and its aftermath can be analyzed on these grounds. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Larijani, one of the issues on the agenda is that the Madrid participants were after certain points and that each side managed to achieve some of their objectives. What is your analysis?

[Larijani] What you say is correct. Each side participating in the Madrid conference had some sort of aim outlined for them in advance. For example, Syria: Of course they promised some of its lands, and they will do so. Israel's main demands will be met, and the rest.

Of course, note that the Israelis ranted a lot about not giving up even one inch of land and that they have already given up a lot of land and that they are owed some! One must not take this ranting and raving by the Zionists seriously.

Shamir, during one of his speeches, said what they really want to do. Shamir said: We will use the Camp David accord as a model and want to reach similar accords with each country. This is the same accord that says: A bit of land must be given to each of them [Arab countries]

since land was exchanged for peace at Camp David. If you look at the Palestinian issue you will see that in the beginning, the problem was a regional one. Since Arab countries could not solve the problem, they made it a pan-Arab problem. That is, they included all the countries and the agenda became Arab-Israeli. Now, not even this is enough. Regarding Israel, the opposite is true: Israel wanted to turn the Palestinian problem into a regional one and settle the problem with each neighboring country. The groundwork for this has begun. I think that in a not too distant future, Syria and Israel will continue their negotiations in Washington. Another Camp David will occur for Syria. I think that the Israelis will definitely withdraw from the Golan Heights. This does not mean that they will give it immediately to Syria. We may witness an American military presence in the Golan in the future. Syria may be satisfied with this as a step in getting its land back.

The same is true for Jordan. However, I believe the Jordanians will sustain more damage. They will not give much to them.

The important problem is southern Lebanon. The side that must fight for its interests is weak. This problem will remain.

Therefore, the give-and-take principle will continue. However, one can never compare what is taken with what is given. The oppressed people of Palestine will gain nothing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Larijani, what is your view about the future of the conference, about the second round, so to speak? Will there be other rounds?

[Larijani] I believe if anybody thinks that the Americans want this meeting to quickly reach a comprehensive peace agreement between the Arab states and Israel, they are mistaken. America needs the conference to continue: It does not want a termination, but it does not want a quick conclusion either. It is in this process of continuation that the Americans must implement the main direction of their interests, which include the guarantee and consolidation of their interests in the region. I believe, therefore, that along this route they will never make the Arab states lose hope. They will regularly dangle chocolate before them at junctures, which will result in the talks perpetuating. The more those states go forward in the talks, the less chance of their pulling out. Concurrently, America is trying to introduce Israel into the region. They are preparing the preliminaries for the establishment of economic and commercial ties from this very moment. Israel is coming to the Persian Gulf to desalinate sea water, to turn sandy places green, and other projects. This idea they have to implant during the talks and realize them. Otherwise, if the talks conclude tomorrow, they would be of no use. I predict that these talks could last something like one year, and in different rounds. The most important parts of them are those that must be carried out between Syria and Israel. The agreement that will be set up between these two countries will be very similar to Camp David, minus those points which in Camp David were in general support of Palestine and were never implemented. That is, Egypt took her territories and went her own way. The rest were abandoned as marginal slogans of the agreement. This time they will not even let Syria write in those slogans in their own new Camp David, but the Americans will try to realize this as an important event, probably within the next few months. In all probability it will be signed in Washington just like Camp David.

But the talks, in my view, will last at least one year and it is within that year that America's intentions will be realized—they are trying to realize them. Those are, of course, the natural consequences of the implemenation of the current American policies. But if you ask whether the road is really that smooth for the success of American intentions, I must reply that it is not so. If America imagines that she has guaranteed her interests in the region, for instance, by using Israel in the region or a military presence, I believe it to be a mistake. They do not understand the region and failed to assess the great phenomenon of Islamic development in the region. If the intention is to safeguard those interests and their expansion in the future, so that they can be used in competition with other powers, I believe that the world competition scene is not such that America can be the sole competitor at the moment. Because we are in a vacuum period, and a power which had a claim—had a claim to compete—is now no more, Americas want to make the world understand that she has global sway. But it is not so. Other players are coming up and appearing in this playing field, and in my view, the 21st century will be the century of America's eclipse—it will start with that eclipse and there are strong signs for this. America's problems in the political scene are increasing daily and her influence in areas that were principally considered America's backyard, such as Europe and the Pacific, is diminishing. America's economic power is beset by huge internal and external problems. If the competition is eliminated and it comes to the open [as heard], then the problem will become even more serious.

America has social problems and industrial-scientific power. Today the Americans are four to five months behind Europe and Japan in many crucial technological fields. The competition scene is far more difficult for American than the Americans think, the Islamic world is much more difficult for them to think of expanding domination over it to such an extent. I believe that in the long run those policies have no chance of success and, God willing, with the moment of the Muslim nation, the scene of the domination will be changed completely. [passage omitted]

Calls Palestinian Leaders 'Illegitimate'

NC1611100991 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Nov 91 p 16

[Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "The Middle East's Future"]

[Text] Despite the repetitive "Zionist rhetoric" in his speech to the Madrid conference, Yitzhaq Shamir confessed to three important points:

1. He is ready to return the territories of his neighboring Arab countries, declaring that the Camp David agreement is a favorable "model" to follow with other neighbors.
2. Israel's major fear is the holy jihad, the Islamic intifadah, and the Islamization of the Palestinian problem.
3. The banner of leadership of the Islamic movement and the jihad against the Zionist enemy is now in Iran's hands.

To prevent the "Islamization" of the Palestine problem, Israel is trying to solve it within a narrow framework, granting each neighboring Arab country parts of its usurped territory in exchange for tolerating Israel and not concerning themselves with the Palestinians. The second phase of the Madrid conference is pursuing precisely this objective and the Arabs favor it.

The Palestine problem has gone through various phases in the past century. The first was a full confrontation between two opposite positions. Then various Arab countries were drawn in and it became an Arab-Israeli problem. Of course, history doesn't show the "Arab world" striving unitedly toward a racial-national goal. Egyptian, Jordanian, and Syrian weakness, however, led Israel to say a pan-Arab alliance existed so they could receive more assistance. Of course, if the problem had become truly "Arabic" in nature, it certainly would be in a much better situation than it is now. But today these "conditions" have changed.

The Palestine problem is said to be an "Islamic" problem and this is the beginning of a new phase in the Zionist occupation. It is in this phase that the outcome will be determined. It is in this phase that the problem has found its true position. From the very start, it should have been placed on the Islamic level and an Islamic solution should have been sought.

American overtures concerning Israel form part of the plan to strengthen and expand American domination in the Middle East. America must accept the price of this aggression. The Islamic world is becoming more and more sensitive toward American domination each day. In other words, not only will America lose Israel, but, God willing, it will also lose the Islamic world.

At the outset of the new phase—that is, the emergence of the Islamic movement as the center of activity—the Palestinians should put their movement in order. The current Palestinian leadership—despite its past devotion and its long and difficult struggles—is now ineffective and is a relic of the past. It is also now illegitimate. Therefore, things should be put into order. The Islamic movement in Palestine should include all leaders! And the new leaders should take their Islamic mission as a criteria and act accordingly.

Impact of Madrid Talks on U.S. Elections Viewed

NC1711141891 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Nov 91 p 12

[A. Abolfath commentary: "The Madrid Conference and U.S. Presidential Elections"]

[Text] The U.S. presidential elections will be held next year and will find George Bush competing with his rivals in the Democrat Party in a close fight. The current policies and the performance of the present government will most certainly play an important role in the next elections.

Bush faced two major events in the Middle East in the three years of his administration. One was the victory in the Persian Gulf, which from the domestic point of view provided suitable fare for propaganda favorable to the ruling regime and the president himself.

Dragging Arabs and Israel to the conference table will also play a major role in the upcoming elections next year.

The peace conference is in progress in Madrid under the complete supervision of the United States and, despite its antipopular and illicit nature, is a major victory for Bush.

He is the first U.S. president, who with a stroke of his diplomacy, has been able to bring the obsequious Arabs and Israel to the negotiating table. This action has further reinforced the position of the U.S. president among moderate Arab governments and Israel.

In any case, Bush faces some specific obstacles in the 1992 presidential elections. As the country that actually directed the Madrid conference, the United States cannot exert more than a certain amount of pressure on the two sides to force them to accept imposed agreements. Until now Israel felt a sense of security as the U.S. strategic ally in the Middle East in the face of regional developments but any kind of pressure exerted by the United States meets Israeli opprobrium. The United States cannot remain indifferent for long toward the extraordinarily strong influence of American Jews even though a while ago the United States announced that until the convocation of the conference it would withhold all long term loans to Israel. In view of the latter's vast share of the levers of political and economic strength in the United States any increased pressure by Washington on Tel Aviv can result in their directing the mass media to take a stance in favor of the Democrats in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile the Arabs also wield considerable influence in U.S. Administrative circles; to a lesser degree than Jews, Arabs' financial power, with the backing of their oil, can buy more votes for the U.S. leaders. In addition, Western industrial magnates and wealthy people have invested widely in Middle Eastern markets. U.S. pressure on the Arabs, therefore, cannot exceed certain known limits as in the case of Israel.

In any case it is possible that one should not expect a major compromise in the Middle East peace trend until the U.S. presidential elections conclude in 1992. This underlines the need for negotiations on important issues such as deciding the destiny of the Middle East, an administrative system, and pressure being exerted on the sides involved. [sentence as published]

The slow movement of the peace talks has also been taken into account by U.S. echelons as well as influential leaders. It can be predicted that only minor differences such as the manner of commercial and cultural exchanges may be resolved until the elections. It is, of course, not too farfetched to imagine that this situation will also change in the event of a change in the U.S. stance on peace or on regional conditions.

Results of Madrid Conference Discussed

NC1611114891 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Land for Peace"]

[Text] On Monday, November 4, 1991, the second stage of the Middle East peace process, the bilateral sessions, ended with the promise to meet again, although no one could say where or when. There were no results on thorny issues involved in the peace talks but the unprecedented one-on-one negotiations involving Syria, Israel, Palestinians, Jordanians and Lebanese were dubbed significant simply by the fact that they took place.

Despite all the preening and posturing in the Madrid talks, Israel's refusal to even discuss the two questions at the heart of the Middle East conflict—occupied territories and the settlers Israel has placed on them—represents a harbinger of the obstacles to be seen throughout the process. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned even prior to the Madrid gathering that focusing on land alone would be the "quickest way to an impasse", while the Syrians said they would discuss nothing but territory. Meanwhile, the United States, the major broker of the peace initiative, choose to maintain its historic position of defending Israel. While Zionist fighter planes pounded southern Lebanon, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes on the eve of the Madrid conference, the United States officials stressed their "understanding of what Israel is doing in Lebanon."

The imposition of the state of Israel on the land of Palestine was a Western initiative. It was the British colonialist mandate followed by the acquiescence of the American imperialist system that rendered the Arab Muslims of Palestine homeless in their own land. It was with Western blessings that Zionist forces wrought havoc in the Holy Land, and it was the Western war machine that precipitated the exodus of Palestinians from their homes. Certainly, it is now the American hand that strangles those brave Palestinians who dare to speak out against the nearly half a century of subjugation by the Zionists.

Palestinians have been denied their ancestral homeland. This is the main issue in the Middle East conflict. This dilemma can no longer be shelved by compromise or conciliatory talks. So much hatred and repression have been unleashed against the people of Bayt-ol Moqaddas [Jerusalem]; so much blood has been shed that no amount of talks and wrangling can overpower the torrent of rage presently engulfing the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A whole people have been robbed of their national identity, lost their sovereignty as a nation and for decades have been bartered like merchandise and treated as pawns of the powerful nations.

The immediate condition for peace in the Middle East is Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd recognized this truth (or at least sought to placate Arab coalition forces), when he said this line on the eve of the Persian Gulf War: "The occupation (of Arabs lands in 1967) is wrong and does not provide the basis for Israel's legitimate quest for security. The United Nations Resolution 242 remains the only internationally agreed basis for settlement in the Middle East." Israel's territorial ambition based on "biblical claims" has little or no validity at this point in time. Nor does its argument that a return to pre-1967 borders would expose the main coastal centers of population to great danger by bringing a Palestinian state within twenty miles of them. Missiles from hostile Iraq during the Persian Gulf war proved this argument wrong. The archaic buffer arguments indeed have no place in reality.

If there is to be peace in the Middle East for any extended period, then the Middle East peace conference must seize the opportunity to implement and enforce the United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338. The United States, it allies as well as the United Nations, rejected the taking of Kuwaiti land. This is the time for them to likewise repudiate the Israeli taking of Arab lands. If they agree that United Nations sanctions and force were necessary in the Saudi desert, then they must concur they are equally applicable in the land of the Palestinians. The world expects an equal solution.

Cuban, PRC, Iraqi Delegates Address G-77 Meeting

LD2111121791 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—The participating ministers of the Group of 77 [G-77] countries here Wednesday voiced the viewpoints of their respective governments on the agenda of the next assembly of the group especially as concerning their exports, technology transfer, capital drain, foreign debts and the future of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The topics were discussed in three separate meetings by African, Asian, and Latin American ministers in addition to a general meeting.

The 7th ministerial meeting of the G-77 opened in Tehran last Tuesday with participation of ministers and representatives from 128 member countries.

Director General of Nigeria's Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Haji-Ahmad Aboubakr called for closer cooperation between the G-77 countries and for beefing up UNCTAD.

Cuba's Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz offered the viewpoints of his government on the current international situation reminding that universal efforts are under way for imposing a single universal ideology on the world and for making the world unipolar politically, culturally and economically.

He said the situation warrants closer cooperation between members of the G-77 especially in light of external pressures for dismantling it.

The trade minister of Indonesia said the G-77 countries can march on faster and attain their goals under the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He noted that UNCTAD should covenant to help the G-77 countries with their common goal in the area of technology. He added the upcoming 8th assembly of the G-77 will offer an opportunity for agreeing on a united policy among the group for attaining development goals.

Deputy Commerce Minister of India Salman Khurshid expressed pleasure with the meeting of the 7th assembly, and proposed that the group should give a new orientation to the relations between the North and the South with an emphasis on the role to be played by UNCTAD. He expressed hope that the G-77 would participate in the South-South dialogue.

The envoy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Foreign Ministry said in his address to the group that the developing countries are suffering from the pressure of their foreign debts and that efforts for relieving them from the burden have thus far been unsuccessful. He said the present economic gap between the developed and less-developed countries will steadily widen unless the the latter group tries successfully to narrow the technological gap between them and the developed countries.

Yugoslav Ambassador to Tehran Trajko Trajkovski representing his country said his government is trying to create a stable situation at home in spite of the internal upheavals in that country. He proposed that UNCTAD plays its due role in the forthcoming North-South dialogue.

The deputy foreign trade minister of China offered an appreciation to Iran for hosting the G-77 meeting and said in light of the current international developments efforts should be made to create a healthy international economic system ensuring the legitimate interests of each and every country.

He pointed out that China advocates friendship and amicable relations with each and every Third World country and that it would offer close cooperation with the G-77 within the context of UNCTAD.

Iraqi Minister of Commerce at the meeting Muhammad Mahdi Salih said that the victory of the United States over Iraq served the interests of the international monopolists. He said the developing nations are unable to carry out an international role because the developing nations do not recognize their rights to that status.

The Iraqi minister said the current economic sanctions against Iraq are "among the most capital international crimes of the present day" and that the developing countries are exploiting economic weapons as a device for imposing their wills on other nations.

The Libyan envoy condemned sanctions against Iraq and called for maintaining secure living conditions for the Palestinians. He said the U.S. imperialism is exploiting the United Nations for exerting pressure on the Palestinians.

The Algerian envoy to the Geneva headquarters of the United Nations said UNCTAD should found its policies and operations on a basis making it secure against the policies of the industrialized nations.

Meanwhile on Wednesday the heads of a group of African delegations to the G-77 meeting in Tehran conferred with the Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji on ways and means for further developing relations with Iran.

The Iranian minister expressed the willingness of Iran to establish flight services between Iran and African capitals as well as to create banking facilities between Iran and those countries. He also added that Iran is willing to import part of its material needs from the African countries and expressed hope that mutual efforts would be made by Iran and the African countries for realizing those projects.

SFRY Delegate Criticizes EC Sanctions

LD2011222591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1539 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov 20 (TANJUG)—Head of the Yugoslav delegation at the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in Tehran, Ambassador Trajko Trajkovski, criticized today the imposition of sanctions against Yugoslavia, arguing that in reaching the decision the EC had been motivated by political reasons.

Should such a punishment of the Yugoslavia persist, "it will deal a severe blow to the economy and also the great majority of the population, which is already exposed to suffering as a result of the war and economic difficulties," Trajkovski warned.

According to the head of the Yugoslav delegation at the Tehran meeting, "they are just some of the 'inappropriate measures' by some countries within what are basically constructive international efforts to put a stop to

the conflict in Yugoslavia and for the problems to be resolved through negotiaitons."

Trajkovski said that some developed countries had stripped Yugoslav exports of general preferential treatment, which is a violation of the principle of universality and non-discrimination, which are of essential importance to that world trade mechanism.

Trajkovski said the measure was "harmful and unjustified," and that it was a "dangerous precedent which could have serious consequences for other states," but also for global economic cooperation.

The meeting of the Group of 77, which is made up of 128 developing countries and is the biggest forum of the so-called Third World devoted to the international economy and development, will close on November 23, the date when the "Tehran declaration" should be adopted as the common position of the underdeveloped world ahead of the new round of the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Colombia in February 1992.

Iraqi Trade Minister on Blockade

JN2111172291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asked the Group-77 nations to stand up to the aggressiveness and brutality of major dominant monopolistic powers, which manifests itself in the crime of the economic blockade.

Addressing the seventh ministerial conference of the G-77 in Tehran, the trade minister pointed out that the U.S. Administration and Zionism are insisting on using the economic blockade as a means of pressure and political blackmail so as to violate Iraq's sovereignty and prevent it from exercising its legitimate right to use its funds and resources to meet its people's needs for food and medicine.

The trade minister noted that these powers have exposed their blatant aggression and violation of all international norms and charters, primarily the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih also explained that the entire world is now aware of all the results of the sustained unjust blockade on the people of Iraq and of the nature of the consecutive imperialistic resolutions issued by the Security Council, including Resolutions 706 and 712, which are devoted to deepening the economic blockade by preventing Iraq from feeding its population and meeting its humanitarian needs. This is in addition to achieving the objectives of the imperialistic-Zionist scheme to undermine Iraq's economic power.

He added that imperialism, which claims defense of human rights, is making up excuses against free, steadfast Iraq, overlooking the crimes of the Zionist entity and its nuclear arsenal, and disdainfully refusing to implement the resolutions issued by the United Nations and other international organizations supporting Palestinian rights.

The trade minister said that Iraq, being a member of the G-77, has always been the first to support all initiatives that could promote and develop Third World countries. Iraq is now ready, in spite of the difficult circumstances it is experiencing, to cooperate with the G-77 to arrive at feasible solutions to the problems the G-77 is facing.

On the sidelines of the conference, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met individually with his Indian, Cuban, and Indonesian counterparts, and the PRC deputy foreign trade minister. He reviewed economic relations with them.

Ministers Continue Sideline Meetings at G-77

Cuban Minister Meets Nurbakhsh

LD2011213491 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Visiting Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade Recardo Cabrisas Ruiz and his Iranian counterpart Mohsen Nurbakhsh in a meeting here Tuesday afternoon called for broadening of Tehran-Havana trade exchanges.

The Cuban minister who is here attending the ongoing 7th ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 [G-77], stressed the significance of the ministerial meeting and the need for extensive economic, trade and technical cooperation among the member states.

Nurbakhsh called for barring any move aimed at limiting and weakening the role of the meeting.

He also welcomed expansion of Iran-Cuba economic and trade relations.

Velayati Receives Cuban Minister

LD2011213991 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Cuba has declared a state of emergency to counter the severe economic difficulties, said the Cuban minister of foreign trade, Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

Ruiz who is in Tehran to attend the Group-77 meeting, inaugurated yesterday, stated that the American sponsored economic sanctions against Cuba and the recent developments in the Eastern bloc have had adverse effects on the Cuban domestic affairs.

"In order to meet the shortages in various fields we make efforts especially to increase production of foodstuff and medical supplies. The people and government of Cuba are determined to stand up against the U.S. economic boycott," he said.

Ruiz also called for expansion of Iran-Cuba ties and a boost in trade exchanges, and informed Velayati that Cuba has authorized foreign investment on tourism inside the country.

Velayati said: "We are aware of the hardships in Cuba and understand your concerns. The relationship with Cuba is significant for Iran and we uphold those ties."

He expressed hope that trade links between member states of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would build a procedure for direct trade exchanges between Group-77 countries.

Velayati Meets Ghanaian Counterpart

LD2011213791 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Visiting Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati met here Wednesday and discussed the ongoing ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, the issues related to the Nonaligned Movement and other major internaitonal and regional topics as well as Tehran-Accra relations.

The Ghanaian minister expressed pleasure with the process of the 7th meeting of the G-77.

On the current problems facing the Nonaligned Movement, he said that alien factors, the Western countries in particular, are constantly trying to take advantage of the movement through exertion of pressure on it.

Asamoah reiterated that the Nonaligned Movement is the only Third World consolidated grouping which must continue to exist. Members of the movement must resist against the outside pressures.

Expressing satisfaction with the upward trend of the Tehran-Accra relations, Velayati said that potentials for expansion of bilateral ties exist.

Borujerdi Meets Indian Official

LD2111001591 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—The United States is trying in vain to prevent expansion of ties between the non-aligned and Third World countries, deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Alla'eddin Borujerdi, said here Wednesday.

In a meeting with visiting Indian Deputy Commerce Minister Salman Khurshid, Borujerdi said relations between the non-aliged and Third World states are bound to promote despite U.S. pressures.

The Indian official lauded the Islamic Republic for its successful hosting of the 7th ministerial meeting of Group-77 countries, and said the New Delhi government is interested in broadening ties with Tehran.

He said New Delhi will not be deterred by any country regarding promotion of relations with Tehran.

Vahaji Meets Polish, Indian Delegates

LD2111114191 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji Wednesday discussed issues of mutual interest and the ongoing Group-77 conference in Tehran with foreign dignitaries attending the meeting.

Polish Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Zbigniew Wojciech Okonski called for promotion of Tehran-Warsaw ties and trade exchanges.

Vahaji stressed South-South and North-South cooperation and said that lack of such cooperation will have unpleasant effects on economic cooperation.

In a meeting with Indian Deputy Commerce Minister Salman Khurshid, Vahaji called for greater cooperateion among Group-77 member states and proposed the members to meet their needs through the resources of each other.

Shipping lines between Iran and India were also discussed in the meeting.

Editorial—Third World Unity Needed for Survival

LD2011230691 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—In a world where "power" is the determining factor, said a Persian language daily here today, the Third World with its rich natural resources including oil, could gain power to survive into the 21st century only through practical unity.

ABRAR said in its editorial that Washington was after a world order which would turn the United States into an unrivalled domineering power in the next century, which means, the survival of Third World states was at stake.

"Third World states could survive only by forging practical unity among them through associations which serve the trend of political, economic and social development of the countries concerned," it said.

According to ABRAR, such associations, either within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) or other regional institutions, "seem the only means to guarantee survival of the developing nations."

Meanwhile, it said, Europe is thinking of unification in order to act as a powerful foil to the U.S. in the next century. Perhaps, said the daily, such a unification will not be achieved as scheduled in 1993, but it is bound to materialize sooner or later.

As for the Soviet Union, the article noted, the country was still in the throes of crisis which is not expected to subside in the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, said ABRAR, Moscow was expected to get a foothold in the European unification, and Eastern Europe has to harmonize itself with the western part to compensate for the years it lost.

In the East, Japan would accelerate its trend of expansion, and since the foundations of the so-called new world order would be economic associations, said the daily, "the U.S., Japan, Europe and the Soviet Union would still regard Third World countries as sources for meeting their demand of cheap raw materials."

Therefore, in order to safeguard their sovereign rights from the neo-colonialists, it concluded, the Third World states, have no other alternative except to forge a "powerful unity" which would ensure their independent survival in the next century.

President Proposes 'Common Market' With GCC

PM1811110291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani Proposes Common Market To Pave Way for Comprehensive Security Agreement in Iranian Messages to Gulf Cooperation Council States"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Iranian sources close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani revealed that his recent messages delivered to Gulf states leaders by his envoy include proposals in connection with the establishment of a regional common market for economic, technical, and technological cooperation to pave the way to concluding a comprehensive security agreement comprising the states of the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

An adviser to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the Iranian leadership believes that normalizing relations with Egypt is a necessary step in order to bolster relations with the Gulf states and the Arab world. This is why 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi, head of the Iranian interests office in Cairo, has been continuing his contacts with Egyptian officials behind the scenes since his return from Tehran, where he held extensive consultations with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The president's adviser revealed that at a recent meeting at the home of the revolution's guide, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani defended his government's policy for bolstering relations with the Gulf states. He launched a campaign against the hardliners who want to "isolate" Iran from its environment and the world. The president's adviser said that Khamene'i voiced reservations about the policy but, in his capacity as head of the executive, Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that he would pursue his line on reviewing Iran's foreign policy in the past stage. SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's envoy to the Gulf states' leaders returned with messages from these leaders in which they welcomed the invitation for them to visit Tehran, indicating that they would reply to it in December.

Velayati, High-Level Delegation Depart for Vienna

NC2111080291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left this morning for Vienna at the head of a high-level delegation. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria reached new agreements in various fields following the session of the Iranian-Austrian joint commission in Tehran.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 0715 GMT on 21 November adds: "During the two-day stay, Velayati is to hold talks with the Austrian chancellor, president and foreign minister on bilateral relations, key international and regional issues, and development in Europe."]

Va'ezi, Soviet Ambassador Discuss USSR Changes

LD1811143791 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev on Monday briefed Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi on the latest development in the Soviet Union's new economic and political structure. Gudev said the new structure would be based on a confederation comprising "sovereign governments" and that a new establishment titled 'the Foreign Relations Ministry' was to be set up to coordinate Soviet ties with the outside world. He said joining the new union accord by various Soviet republics depended on the decisions of their parliaments.

Va'ezi welcomed the changes, and hoped the Soviet Union would successfully pass this transitional period. The outcome of the recent talks in Moscow involving Afghan mujahideen and Soviet officials was also discussed by the two who called for continuation of efforts to solve the Afghan issue.

Va'ezi said a declaration issued by Moscow on Afghanistan was a "positive" step towards meeting the aspirations of the Afghan people for an Islamic government in Kabul.

Soviet Envoy Discusses Bilateral Relations

NC1611115191 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev by an unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ABRAR] You have said that infrastructural reforms have been initiated in the Soviet Union and will continue. Some of the reforms in Soviet foreign policy deal with getting closer to Europe and moving away from the Middle East and countries the USSR supported in the past. In fact, the United States and the Soviet Union find themselves on the same side at the Middle East peace conference. The Soviet Union has resumed ties with Israel and has envisaged numerous facilities for the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. This is happening at the same time as Israel is flouting its commitments to the Soviet Union and accommodating Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. How do you justify these actions when the Soviet Union is striving to project itself as a humanitarian nation to the countries of the south?

[Gudev] In 1985, serious changes took place in Soviet foreign, not domestic, policy. You are aware that at that time a totally new Soviet policy called the new thinking was formulated. As a result, many of the existing terms in the international lexicon, such as cold war, have been eliminated. The policy of this new thinking, however, was not only applied in one case. Earlier, the Soviet Union had followed a clear policy of peace regarding the world's hot spots. Following this policy, the peace trend became even stronger in our foreign policy.

I therefore believe that Soviet peace efforts in the Arab-Israeli dispute were always there. It is possible, however, that these efforts did not go far enough.

Additionally, the convocation of a Middle East peace conference has always been a Soviet goal. We wanted the UN General Assembly to adopt resolutions supporting the peace conference. [passage omitted]

The Soviet approach in talks with the United States during the Persian Gulf war was that the war occurred under extremely dangerous conditions in which the Arab-Israeli dispute would remain unresolved. We believed that it would be logical that after the war we would attempt to resolve all Middle East conflicts in a more complete way.

All Soviet proposals to date have been endorsed. Of course, the United States agreed with us that the overall tensions in the Middle East had created conditions conducive to resolving these crises. The world wants the Middle East problem solved. [passage omitted]

We need to review and assess democratic developments in the Soviet Union in order to fully understand the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Our laws restricted citizens' travel outside the country until recently. Moscow now, however, abides by all international agreements on human rights. [passage omitted]

The relocation of Jewish emigres to the occupied territories, however, is something the Soviet Union still disagrees with. I imagine that the Israeli leadership will see the negative reaction of the Soviet Union, the United States, and West European countries to its policy of sending emigre Jews to the occupied areas and it will act cautiously on the issue. It is possible, however, that the problem will be resolved by taking the interests of the Arab countries into consideration during the peace conference.

[ABRAR] Experts are saying that the Soviet Union should not attend the conference from a position of strength equal to that of the United States; that it should participate as the weaker party. Soviet leaders, Mr. Gorbachev as well, have said that if Western economic assistance does not pour into the Soviet Union another coup d'etat is possible.

The Soviet Union's shaky situation indicates that it cannot participate in the peace conference as a strong force or even play a fundamental role. What is more important and what we believe to be a more correct assessment is that, according to a Middle East plan proposed by the Zionist "Brookings" Institute, the Soviet Union should be without any decisionmaking ability during the Middle East peace conference. In light of all this, do you still think that you have been active in the Middle East conference?

[Gudev] The Soviet Union and the United States participated as equals in the conference, as is clear and well known. A former Soviet foreign minister travelled to the Middle East a few months ago to make preparations. The present foreign minister made a similar trip as well. This Soviet diplomatic activity was stepped up a few months ago and diplomatic delegations of most of the Arab countries, including the PLO delegation, visited Moscow to discuss the Middle East, the peace conference, and other issues. This conference would not have been possible without the Soviet Union's diplomatic efforts, I do not, however, wish to downplay the U.S. efforts.

The Soviet Union needs economic assistance from Western countries, but without any political conditions, in order to continue its changes and reforms. The Soviet Union will not accept the assistance if any conditions are imposed. The Soviet Union is following an independent foreign policy. I believe that our foreign policy is in harmony with the new international realities and interests of all countries and nations.

Musavi-Tabrizi Leaves for Azerbaijan Visit

LD1911155191 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Prosecutor General of the country Ayatollah Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi left Tehran for Baku, capital of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Tuesday morning at the head of a top-ranking judicial delegation. The ayatollah told reporters that during the visit he is to hold talks with the Azerbaijan judicial authorities and brief them on Islamic judiciary system and its procedure in the Islamic Republic of Iran in which the Azerbaijani judiciary officials are highly interested.

Moscow Train Traffic Through Azerbaijan Resumes

LD1711184891 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—The Tehran-Moscow return trip railway service which discontinued on September 14 due to the extraordinary situation in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan union [as received] is to resume operations this Thursday.

The train will leave Tehran twice weekly on Saturdays and Thursdays and will arrive in Moscow on Wednesdays and Mondays. The return trip will leave Moscow twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays arriving in Tehran on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Agreements Signed With Soviet Nakhichevan Republic

LD1511151791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Nakhichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran are going to cooperate in cultural and economic fields. According to an IRNA report, this was decided after a visit by a number of officials of East Azerbaijan Province to Nakhichevan and the signing of two cultural and economic agreements.

A joint market will be formed in the Jolfa region in the near future according to the economic agreement. Traders from both sides will be able to purchase goods through this market.

The cultural agreement states that religious scholars are to be dispatched from Marand for one year to religious schools and Nakhichevan University. The Marand Free University will receive lecturers from that university in return. [passage omitted]

President Chairs National Security Council Session

NC1711095691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a meeting last evening chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by members, political advisers, and high-level military commanders.

Spokesman Habibi Discusses Cabinet Decisions

LD1811193791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Government spokesman Mr. Habibi discussed the latest cabinet decisions and answered questions raised by reporters in his weekly news conference this morning. He said: In its latest sessions, the cabinet continued the debate on the notes of the budget for the year 1371 [beginning 21 March 1992] and the government's general policy trends in this year. Among the 10 notes debated so far, greater emphasis is placed on increased higher production and supply; creation of productive employment; and the promotion of plans, which involve the self-employed in productive work and rural services. In all these matters, the cabinet paid attention to the development of the deprived regions in the country and to assisting the revolution devotees, the esteemed families of the martyrs, the missing-in-action, and the released POW's.

About progress of the reconstruction work in the earthquake-stricken regions of Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, Mr. Habibi said:

[Begin recording] The budget allocated for the reconstruction of the quake-stricken region was 60 billion rials for the year 1369 and 90 billion rials for the year 1370. That is, a total of 150 billion rials has been earmarked in the government budget. In addition there is the people's assistance, which frankly amounts to a considerable figure. [passage omitted] The total number of houses damaged by the earthquake was 150,000 units. In Gilan Province, 6,500 pre- fabricated units were set up for temporary housing of the people in the year 1369. In Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, 93,000 temporary housing units were placed at the disposal of the people in the year 1369, thanks to the state expenditure of 25 billion rials and the people's donations. We predict that if the building materials are supplied, by the end of the first half of the year 1371 the task of building permanent housing in the rural areas will be completed; and in the urban areas the job of providing permanent houses will be completed by the end of the year 1372 [20 March 1994]. [end recording]

The first vice president continued: The job of repairing the Sefid River Dam is completed. Work is progressing on rebuilding the Shahid Beheshti power station of Lowshan; reconstruction of the Energy Ministry's installations; repair works on the irrigation network; and repairs on the damaged roads, schools, and hospitals in the earthquake-hit regions.

In reply to a question on government policy for controlling inflation, Mr. Habibi blamed the growth in the government's investment for the current rising inflation. He continued: In order to harness inflation, the government's general policy is to control the volume of cash in circulation and to direct the deposits toward investment in productive projects. [passage omitted]

Supervisor for Hajj, Pilgrimage Organization Named

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[Excerpt] The supervisor of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization has been introduced. According to IRNA, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Mr. Khatami, has appointed Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn Reza'i as

his deputy and the supervisor of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization. It is worth mentioning that the Supreme Administrative Council recently approved the formation of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization as one of the organizations affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. [passage omitted]

Members of Cultural Heritage Society Appointed

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[Text] The remaining members of the Board of Governors of the Cultural Heritage Society were appointed at the proposal of the minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance and the minister of Culture and Higher Education and with the approval of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council.

The last members of the board are: Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili, Dr. Hasan Ebrahim Habibi, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammad Taghi Ja'fari, and Dr. Sayyed Ja'far Shahidi, Dr. Mahmud Hesabi, and Dr. 'Abdol Karim Sorush. The appointment decrees were issued by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council.

The Cultural Heritage Society, which has been set up to replace the former National Heritage Society, is charged with the introduction and honoring of scholars and thinkers in the arena of the culture and civilization of Iran and Islam, the revival and publication of their worthy works, as well as the introduction of the Iranian and Islamic culture and civilization and the Iranians' role in enhancing the Islamic culture and civilization. It is headed by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution.

Pakistan

Minister Says Nuclear Program Curbs Unacceptable

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[Text] Islamabad, Nov 20—Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said here today that Pakistan would not accept any discriminatory restriction on its peaceful nuclear programme.

This unequivocal reiteration from the Prime Minister came during a meeting with visiting U.S. Under Secretary for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew, who called on him at the Prime Minister's House here this afternoon.

Emphasising Pakistan's commitment to a nuclear-free South Asia, Nawaz Sharif referred to the various options proposed by Pakistan.

He hoped that the concerned states would appreciate the need to completely and permanently denuclearise the region. "Any solution that does not focus on the regional situation would neither be acceptable nor fruitful," he asserted.

Referring to the issue of Kashmir, the Prime Minister said, the Indian refusal to resolve the problem in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people was the main obstacle in the way of normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Nawaz Sharif, however, expressed the hope that the Indian government would review the issue pragmatically to put a stop to further bloodshed in the occupied state.

The Prime Minister assured the visiting Under Secretary that Pakistan valued its relations with the United States more than any material assistance and economic aid. "Pakistan would like to maintain its friendship with the United States with or without aid," the Prime Minister declared.

He asked Mr Bartholomew to convey to Washington Pakistan's appreciation of the U.S. Administration's difficulties on the issue of economic aid as much as Pakistan would like the U.S. Administration to understand and appreciate Pakistan's own constraints in this regard.

The U.S. under secretary congratulated the Prime Minister on the far-reaching reforms introduced by his government. "We are watching with interest and appreciation the steps being taken by Pakistan", he said.

He particularly complimented the Prime Minister on the arrangements for revenue and water sharing amongst the provinces.

"We greatly value your commitment to the democratic principles and we wish you well and we extend our fullest support", he added.

Mr Bartholomew referred to the close collaboration and cooperation that has been the hallmark of U.S.-Pakistan relations. "The United States has some important relationships around the world and Pakistan is among them", he said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reciprocated the sentiments and assured the visiting under secretary that Pakistan equally valued its friendship with the United States and would continue to strive to maintain the warmth that has characterised their relationship.

Minister for Defence Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Siddique Kanjoo, secretary general foreign affairs; M. Akram Zaki, secretary foreign affairs; Sheharyar M. Khan, principal secretary to the prime minister; Anwar Zahid and the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Nicholas Platt were also present.